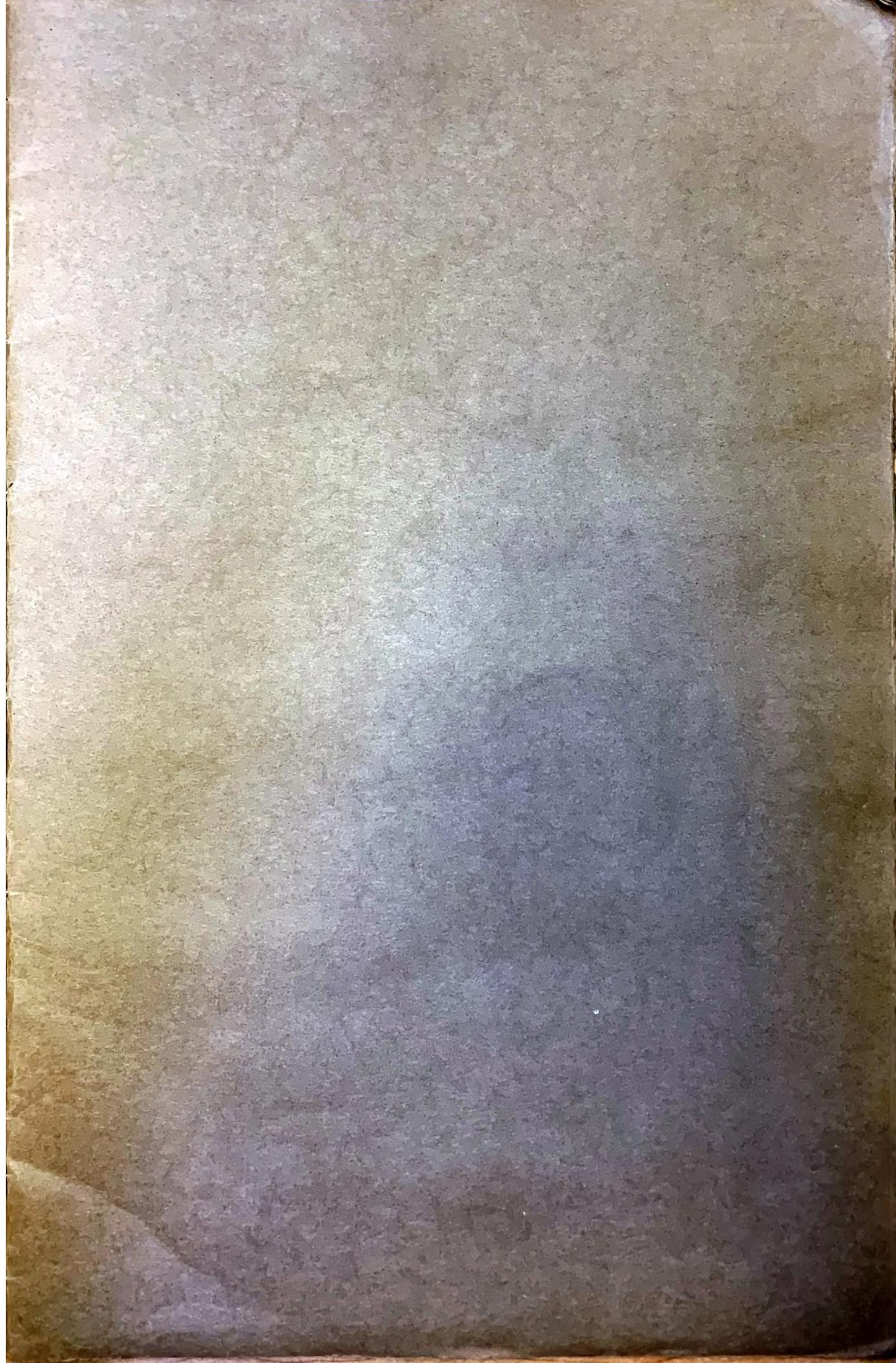


BIDDEFORD SCRAP Book

No. 3

EXHIBIT  
176-1501

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Jan. 8-1904

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Memorial Election of 1888 When Vote Sellers Reaped the Biggest Harvest Ever Known In Any City.

*Boston Record*  
Jan 7-1904

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## Democrats Come Into Power-Harmon's Debut in Politics-His Crusade Against Rumsellers-The Repeater Scandal.

(Continued From January 5.)  
In 1888, after a lively campaign, the Democrats captured the city, electing Hon. Edward W. Staples mayor by 197 majority. One of his first acts was to increase the police force and to appoint Charles E. Harmon city marshal.

This marks the entry of Mr. Harmon into politics. He had previously taken no more interest in affairs political than the average citizen. It was understood that he was picked for the place to close up the numerous rum shops and it was for this same reason that the number of the police force was increased. Mayor Staples remarking in his inaugural address that he had a police force large enough to enforce all the laws every day in the week.

### Harmon For Enforcement.

City Marshal Harmon made such a record as a raider upon rum sellers as no officer in the State ever made, not even Sheriff Pearson. He gave them no rest by night or by day. He not only raided the saloons but haunted the depots and followed up the express companies and truckmen.

This was Harmon, the Democratic city marshal, holding his office by virtue of appointment by the mayor. How different from Harmon, the Republican city marshal, holding his office by virtue of the state appointed police commission.

But he had his troubles. In the Maine Sentinel of the issue following the inauguration of the new city council is to be read an affidavit by Thomas Hanson, a saloon keeper, making out that a Republican deputy sheriff had warned him and others in the business when the police were out making raids.

That seems up to date, so far as the deputy sheriff is concerned, but it is incomprehensible at this date that police under Harmon's direction were ever engaged in raiding rumshops.

But in a few weeks Harmon had Biddeford as dry as it ever was or is will ever be possible to make it.

To read in the papers of that date of his strenuous work is to create contempt for the pitiful blarney that the deputies have put up in the last year. Harmon apparently delighted in this kind of work at that time and the Record does not believe that his worst enemy will dispute the assertion that he enforced the law with more vigor and more impartiality than it was ever enforced in Biddeford, before or since.

Harmon's vigorous work and its conspicuous results earned for him praises from the choruses and Good Templar lodges.

Does it seem inconceivable? It is nevertheless a matter of history. And in other respects Harmon made a good city marshal, falling into the ways of the politician and becoming a valuable man to his party.

### Democratic Administrations.

The Democrats continued in power. Their rule between Mayor Staples' first election and 1888 was continued only by hard fights, but they had entrenched themselves so that Biddeford was referred to as "the rock ribbed Gibraltar" of Maine Democracy. That was a favorite expression of the War Eagle's, since politically deceased, when he was a shining light of the party.

The establishment of the city liquor agency by the Democrats raised quite a howl, but it proved a good political move, at least, and moreover a humane move, since thereafter there was no necessity for anybody suffering for liquor for medicinal and mechanical purposes. Moreover the city's treasury profited some from the agency, though Republicans made all kinds of accusation against its management.

Then the Democratic administration made extensive improvements, particularly in the street department. The Democrats pointed with pride to these improvements. They called it "progress." The Republicans cried "ulterior," "plunderers" perpetually. A review of the files of the Journal and Times would show columns upon columns of the strongest assaults upon the so-called "paving steal" and the infamous city liquor agency. The

Democrats retorted in the same kind, with charges of the most outrageous plundering of the city under the former years of Republican rule, with nothing to show for it. One instance: Saco sent Hon. Ira H. Foss to Augusta to look after the city's valuation. His bill for services was \$38. Biddeford then under a Republican administration, sent a commission of three to Augusta which did the same service, and for this service they drew \$800 from the city treasury.

### Strange Bedfellows.

This is all a matter of history. Whether there was foundation for the charges against one side or the other, or not is not for The Record to say.

It is in order to call attention to the fact, however, that these men who were denouncing each other as thieves, who defied the laws of libel and exhausted vituperation, are at present enlisted and serving side by side in the Citizen movement, actuated only by patriotic interest in the city's welfare.

### Politics make strange bedfellows.

It is an axiom that will appear over and over again as this review continues.

### The Repeater Scandal.

The chief event of this interim between the going out of power of the Republicans and the year 1888, which period is only to be covered in a general way, was the famous repeater scandal and it was a big one. Maine never had a bigger political scandal.

The Record does not propose to review this scandal, at length, for it was preliminary only to a lot of other political crookedness for which the same inferences were responsible.

We mentioned earlier that City Marshal Harmon had rapidly developed into a politician. He kept on developing and has kept on developing and nobody attempts to forecast today what Harmon will develop tomorrow.

Harmon was made the scapegoat of the repeater episode, rightfully or wrongfully. The Record never heard it seriously claimed by anybody that he was wrongly accused, but the jury, like most juries, when politics are involved, could not agree to find him guilty and so he stands legally innocent.

What made experienced politicians on the Democratic side disgusted, was the fact that the repeater scandal, had been uselessly brought on. Whether Harmon or somebody else was responsible, the fact was that the Democratic party had no more need of the services of these imported repeaters than a cat has of two tails. The election result was a foregone conclusion.

The Democrats had voted to lead the Republicans. It was just a needless, amateurish bit of political trickery which put the Democratic party in a nasty hole and subjected its leaders to the rankest condemnation and denunciation. See files of that date of the Journal and Times, in proof of this.

If Harmon was accused of anything of the kind at this date, and the evidence against him was as strong as it was then, it would simply be styled in the language of the day as "another of Harmon's blarney."

Passing over the repeater scandal with these comments, with the additional statement that it cost the Democratic leaders a good deal of money and a good deal of uneasiness, we will consider the period between 1888 and 1889 briefly over and enter upon the history of the last 15 years more in detail.

(Continued From January 7.)

The Republicans had become to be pretty well discouraged by their vain efforts to win back the control of the city. They had tried various candidates and made all sorts of issues but the Democratic organization was strong and the rank and file of the people seemed to be well satisfied with Democratic rule. At least this was the natural inference from the steady repetition of Democratic majorities.

In the meantime the Democrats had secured control of the municipal administration and this, of course, tended to strengthen the party locally.

Charles E. Harmon had graduated from city marshal to United States marshal and had become to be a less important figure in local politics. In fact, by 1888 he was accused of being rather lukewarm and of being open very indifferent terms with some of the Democratic leaders.

In the winter of 1888 also saw the launching of the Democratic daily, the Standard. The Democrats had been under the continual bombardment of the two Republican dailies, the Times and the Journal, both of which were at that time vigorously aggressive, while the weekly Sentinel was the only organ the Democrats had.

So the Democrats were in pretty good shape all around for the big spring fight which was in prospect.

### Kendall Beaten in Caucuses.

Two Republican majority candidates and two Republican factions were in sight a month in advance of election. Col. Kendall, then Captain Kendall of the Light Infantry, who had a strong personal following, was put forward early by his friends, but there was another faction which opposed him, a faction which has always since opposed him. It was largely a Water Power following, for the Water Power machine shop, under the McKellan-Morse rule, had always been a strong Republican institution. They turned out Republican voters a good deal faster than they did spinning frames.

The opposition to Col. Kendall had become to be pretty well developed before it had been definitely settled whom to run in the caucuses in opposition. Gilman P. Littlefield was finally agreed upon and as there was the liveliest kind of canvass to get voters out to the caucuses.

And it was a lively caucus, with the whole Water Power shop on hand and then, with the other supporters of Mr. Littlefield, were too many for the Kendall supporters and Mr. Littlefield was nominated. The Kendall people took their medicine and fell in to work for the success of the ticket.

### Great Times For Bootleggers.

There was no question but that the Republicans were out for a fight that year, and that, meant to those who were wise, that there would be no lack of money.

The sellers were in consequence in a state of happy anticipation for a week before election. They did not wait until election day to demand money for their political assistance but they held up every candidate they could get within reach of for such cash donations as they could. Some of the candidates, particularly one on the Republican ticket, had an astonishing idea that the good will of these voters was to be secured by liberally handing out quarters and halves and dollars in advance. They came to a rude realization of the value of "personal popularity" with the voters.

### The Two Tickets.

The Democratic majority candidate was Hon. Charles E. Goodwin and he had the full support of his party. This election having been one of the most memorable in the city's history it will be worth while to give the aldermanic candidates for that year also.

The Democratic candidates for aldermen were: Ward 1, Marshall E. Curtis; ward 2, Michael Leonard; ward 3, Albert H. Wardwell; ward 4, Nathaniel B. Walker; ward 5, Nahum S. Brown; ward 6, Jean B. Pare; ward 7, John H. Barnham.

The Republican aldermanic candidates were: Geo. F. Piper, Michael Hasey, Albert G. Lunt, H. Pitt Andrews, Volney A. Sprague, William P. McMullan, Asa L. Ricker.

Both parties were satisfied that they had named strong tickets. The negotiations for councilmen compared very well with the aldermanic nominations. The caucuses, on both sides, were enthusiastic and it is doubtful if both parties were ever in as good fighting trim as they were then, everything considered.

### The French Vote Then.

Much is heard in those days about the French vote. It may be of interest to note that in 1888 and for half a dozen years subsequently the French vote was almost solidly Democratic. You could count on the ends of the fingers all the French voters who claimed to be Republicans. All The Record can recall at this time of the voters of this nationality who lined up with the Republicans in those campaigns were: Daniel Shovenell, John B. Morin, Adolph Roubt, Joseph Chamberland, Peter Martin, Odoire Debois and Joseph F. Quarter.

The others of this nationality were as loud shouters for Democracy in those years as they have been of late

years for the Republican-Citizen-Industrial League combination. Many of them sported special police badges and quite a number of them even regular badges, under Democratic rule. They had the street jobs, they were in the fire department, they were well looked after, a good deal better looked after than they have ever been since their grand flop, except that ranselling privileges were not among the rewards dealt out in those days.

### An Auction Sale.

The battle of bootleg began on the stroke of the clock at a Monday morning. Both sides had workers by the score in every ward and both fought and fought for the whole ticket.

The early offers of \$5 and \$10 for votes were scoffed at. Those who had votes to sell had too good an idea of what the bait would be later on. It may be stated here that men sold their votes that day who had never sold them before. The prices were finally such as to tempt most any man.

An hour after the polls were open \$30 was the minimum price. It ranged to \$50, to \$55, to \$40, until the latter was for a time about the regular price. In ward 6, where the sellers were most fond, \$50, \$70 and as high as \$80 was paid for votes.

Both sides had got to have the sellers, if they did come high. It was only a question whose barrel would last longest. Sellers dickered like horse traders, going from one side to the other and raising the price.

We need not for the vote of himself and two sons, one can, and it is but fair to add that he was a Yankee, received \$105.

It is not believed that in any city in this country such prices were ever paid for votes as were paid commonly in Biddeford in the spring election of 1888.

The Republicans fought gamely until noon and then they threw up their hands. They had some their limit on the bootleg question, the Democrats seemed to have no limit.

The afternoon was quiet. The sellers who had still held out, began to take small prices for their votes.

Before the polls closed the memorable election day blizzard had set in. A few hours later the snow was over the fences. But the snow lay no heavier than the hearts of the Republicans.

The count of the votes showed that Goodwin had received 1800 votes and Littlefield 1112, which was the heaviest vote by considerable ever cast in this city.

The Democrats carried wards 2, 4, 5 and 7.

## INDIGNANT DENIAL.

### A. W. Pierce Declares He Will Not Sing at League Minstrel Show.

Albert W. Pierce, who has been proclaimed at meetings of the infamous Industrial League as a member of the quartet which is to sing at the minstrel show to be given in connection with the league's big fair in National hall, and who, the Journal, the official organ of the league, recently stated officially was a member of the quartet, is not to sing in the league's minstrel show. Two or three days ago, as intimated in The Record Mr. Pierce denied that he was a member of the quartet, and he stated that he had no intention of singing in the minstrel show. Last evening the Journal, the official organ of the league, printed the following:

A. W. Pierce wishes the Journal to state that he has not been invited to sing at the minstrel show in connection with the Industrial fair, and should not if he had been invited.

The Record was the first to announce the names of the members of the league quartet. It gave them on Wednesday of last week and they were furnished The Record by its representative and other members of the league. At the time of the meeting on Tuesday night of last week it was publicly proclaimed, so The Record was told, that the league quartet for the minstrel show would be composed of Newland M. Philbrick, Albert W. Pierce, John H. Dargin and Alfred Bouman and these, with Edwin M. Colton, would be the soloists.

Whether any person had authority to make such an announcement at the league meeting The Record does not know. It only knows that such an announcement was made and it was repeated by members of the league to a Record reporter the next day.

Tuesday evening last the Journal, the official organ of the league, officially announced that these gentlemen would compose the quartet and soloists, and that seemed to settle the thing until Mr. Pierce came out with his indignant denial that he was a member of the quartet and the statement that he would not sing at the minstrel show even if he were asked to do so.

Other members of the announced quartet are said to deny that they will sing in the minstrel show, and it seems to be up to the Journal, the official organ of the league, to make further explanations.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Election of 1889-How the Republicans Might Have Used a Small Boodle Profitably- Fred A. Tarbox Appointed City Marshal.

Jan 9-1904

(Continued From January 8)

The victory of 1888 was celebrated in the usual style for those days with a roasting, whooping rally in City hall, the band with, firemen without and the hottest kind of talk from the stage.

Those were great justification meetings which Biddeford's victorious Democracy used to hold in those days. What a noisy, whooping crowd it was! Where are they now? Some of them, many of them who were the loudest shouters then are now shouters under Harmon's Industrial League banner. The writer noticed in reading the account of this justification meeting, following the election of 1888 that the principal speakers were the War Eagle and Hon. B. F. Chadbourne. The War Eagle made reference to the victory as one that had been secured "without money and without price" and the crowd went wild, though probably two thirds of those present still had the cash equivalent of their votes in their pockets. Mr. Chadbourne spoke of the lofty purposes and principles of the Democracy which had been so triumphantly vindicated that day.

That was in 1888. In 1904 we look out of the window and see the War Eagle and Harmon talking with every indication of close comradeship and sympathy and are reminded that Hon. B. F. Chadbourne is to deliver an address at Harmon's Industrial League fair.

Have't strange bedfellows been made in Biddeford's politics in the last 15 years?

And to think that the very files of the Standard upon which the writer relies to refresh his memory of these stirring political events were edited by Col. F. W. Roberts, now one of Harmon's henchmen.

When you think of these shifts and turnabouts do you blame the ordinary, disinterested voter who had nothing to lose or gain no matter how election went, who yielded to the pressure of that day when the air was full of boodle and exchanged his vote for more cash than he could earn at hard labor in two months?

### A Quiet Year.

The year 1888, after the spring election, was rather quiet politically, notwithstanding it was the year for national and state election.

The county and state elections resulted much as usual and at the national election the Democrats were defeated and before another spring had come around there were renewed rumors of United States Marshal Harmon's lukewarmness toward the Democracy, locally and nationally.

It was not understood at that time as Harmon has since frequently explained, that his lukewarmness was due to the fact that he had suddenly discovered that he had never at heart believed in the Democratic doctrine of free trade, but had always had strong inward convictions that protection was the proper policy. Some have scoffed at Harmon's explanation of his political shifts, but these who will frankly consider his course since he became a Republican leader will find in his policy toward the Biddeford rum syndicate and the Industrial League that, as he claims, he is a protectionist at heart.

### A One Sided Election.

The campaign preceding the election of 1889 was not particularly lively. The Republicans had but little heart after the defeat of the previous spring, yet some of them wanted to make another fight and there was enough talk to this effect to encourage the sellers. They had strong hopes that the Republicans would rally and that a repetition of the fancy prices of the preceding spring would be the result.

But the Republicans did not have the heart. The shouters were enthusiastic enough but the men who had furnished sinews of war for the former fight, who were still on notes with no prospect that they would be taken care of, as anticipated by assessments on city officials, were not at all inclined to make another plunge.

Still there were various meetings and councils at the York club. Some wanted to "raise a pot" and some did not, and as a matter of fact it was not decided until after midnight, Sunday

night whether there was to be another boodle battle or not. It was finally decided that there should not be.

There were some interesting matters in connection with this eleventh hour session at the York club, they are personal matters, relating to efforts to raise money, assessments and intimations as to what had become of money that had been raised, one time and another, etc.

### Ward 2 Reform Club.

There was deep disappointment among the sellers when it was learned that the Republicans were not to make a boodle fight.

Down in ward 2 the Republicans had a chance to do effective business with a little money. Ward 2 had always been the banner Democratic ward, but this year there was deep discontent. Too much attention had been paid to ward 7 and too little to ward 2. Some of the disgruntled had been sowing seeds of discontent and the result was the organization of the "Ward 2 Reform Club," as called. An old hall, barren of furniture except a few benches and chairs had been made headquarters for the club, but the real headquarters were at Morgan's barber shop in "the yard." Capt. James Morgan of the present police being the proprietor. Here the gang met and "chewed" and the Ward 2 Reform Club was all the talk for a few days before election.

On the morning of election the writer saw about 50 members of the "Reform Club" stowed away in the old hall of the building which has since given place to the new block owned by John F. Maxwell. The most of those present were waiting to see what the day would develop in the way of boodle inducements. It was claimed that there were 30 votes which could be had for \$5 each, Republican money. Cheap enough, certainly, in comparison with the prices paid the year before. Then this bunch would have cost \$4000 instead of \$400, which would have landed it for the Republicans ticket.

### Boodle Not In Sight.

In other wards in the city there was the same herding of sellers waiting for the price to go up. The Democrats having no opposition in the way of boodle had only been offering \$3 and \$5, an insult to the sellers, after their experience of the year before.

In ward 4, 60 voters were gathered in a room and held there until as late as 9 o'clock in the afternoon. Two hundred dollars would have landed this bunch for the Republican ticket. In ward 5, in a room just above where the present police station now is, there were 80 more, hanging out for \$5 a head. It was about the same in the other wards and after noon a council of leaders was again held at the York club and there was strong talk of raising a boodle, gathering all these sellers in at a swoop and thus carrying the city. But the nerve and money were lacking. A little later the sellers broke loose and got what they could in Democratic money, which was not much, \$2 or \$3 apiece, a sorry amount compared to the prices of 1888.

There had been no caucus contests this year. Mayor Goodwin was the unanimous choice of the Democrats and Dr. John Lord of the Republicans.

Mayor Goodwin's majority was 200, yet there were Republicans who claimed that had they raised a moderate boodle and jumped into the fight early in the afternoon they could have won.

### But they did not.

One of the most important results of this election, as will be seen later on, was the appointment by Mayor Goodwin of Fred A. Tarbox as city marshal. The appointee had been quite active in politics and had made something of a record as a ward boss. A radical reorganization of the police force resulted, it having been common rumor for some time that under the easy going administrations of City Marshals B. F. Chadbourne (who is to be chief speaker at the coming Industrial League fair) and John E. Banks, some of the old police officers were devoting more time by night to poker and feminine friends than to looking after their beats.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

Jan 11-1904

## Today's Installment Relates More Particularly to the Police Department While Fred A Tarbox Was at the Head of It.

(Continued From January 9)

On the whole probably Biddeford never had a more stirring and eventful year politically than the year 1889, but today's installment does not deal particularly with that one year.

There was not much doing outwardly in the course of the year 1889, but there was a good deal of Republican scheming going on and if the Democrats did less scheming it was simply because their prospects were more safely assured than the prospects of their opponents.

### City Marshal Tarbox.

City Marshal Tarbox had proven a great success. The police department, under his administration, was admirably managed, from a Democratic standpoint, and it was soon realized that Mayor Goodwin and his advisers had made an excellent selection in his appointment. The Tarbox police force was unquestionably a Democratic power, but at the same time there was never a time in the first year of his administration, or for that matter in any successful year, when any man of the opposition party was not sure of just and courteous treatment when he had any occasion to do business with the head of the force.

Tarbox played the game of politics for all it was worth, all right, that was what the head of the police department was supposed to do in those days, for mind you, this was before the era of a state appointed, "non partisan" police force, but he played the game with tact, instead of brutality; he made friends instead of clubbing men to support him. Three hundred days out of the year he was on as friendly terms with Republicans as with Democrats. The remaining 65 days were campaign days, when he was too active politically to make Republican friends. The great difference between City Marshal Tarbox and Chief of Police Harmon was that with a police force made up of the ordinary character, he was only politically offensive in the heat of campaign time, while Harmon is politically offensive every day in the year. The one used tact, the other the club. As for ability, in the ordinary and legitimate requirements of the office of city marshal the writer expresses the belief without prejudice, unimpaired of political connection or significance, that Fred A. Tarbox was the keenest, nerviest, best equipped man for the job that Biddeford ever had or probably ever will have. In support of this judgment it ought to be sufficient to point to his record, since he was adjudged unfit to remain at the head of the Biddeford police department, made as chief of police of Fitchburg and Newbury. It is the same old Tarbox. He has borrowed little from metropolitan associations. He has simply carried the methods which made his administration a success in Biddeford into these Massachusetts towns where police ability and not political ability is required.

### A Vital Question.

This police question is of vital importance to Biddeford. It is the whole key to the present political situation and this should be kept in mind by those who are following this review of local politics, who might think that undue space was being devoted to a tribute to Former City Marshal Tarbox. It is not in the nature of a personal tribute, actuated by friendship, that so much space is devoted to the merits and abilities of Former Marshal Tarbox, but it is for the purpose of showing how outrageous and uncalled for was the action by which he was deposed and supplanted by Charles B. Harmon and the state police commission.

In an earlier article due praise and credit were given to City Marshal Harmon. It is but right that Former City Marshal Tarbox should be given due credit. It has an important bearing on the present situation, its importance will be seen later on, if not at the present time, by those who are following this review.

### Tarbox's Nerve.

There are lots of rank cowards who only need the badge of the law's authority to transform them into courageous men. Sometimes even that badge of authority is not sufficient to instill courage. The readers' attention is called in advance to the events of the riotous election day of 1890, which will be given later, as illustrating the point that the man is not always worthy of the badge and that the badge does not always breed nerve, or

### course.

The ability of Tarbox as a criminal officer and as a politician have been mentioned. The writer has no fear of controversy upon these points. His nerve has been referred to. Those who best knew him and who had the opportunity to judge will not take issue with the writer upon this point. Columns could be written in proof of the nerve of Tarbox, and nerve is a very important qualification for a chief of police. Nerve does not mean brow-beating, bulldozing and bullying. It does not mean the resort to secret plots and the employment, or at least the sanction of thugs and toughs. The stories of Marshal Tarbox's chases of rum haulers by night, of his raids upon dive keepers, of his mixing-up with the most dangerous toughs of the city (and there were dangerous toughs in those days, not of the order of the present "bad men," who carry the license of Harmon and his Industrial League, who are long on mouth and threats and short on performance, as The Record knows better than anybody else in Biddeford, perhaps) of his part in those stormy and riotous election days and caucuses, would be a story of single handed nerve that would convince anybody who might have doubts as to The Record's tribute to Fred A. Tarbox's nerve.

### One Incident.

One illustration will suffice, if proof is necessary.

It was during that crazy, senseless strike on the Pepperell in the spring of 1890, Tarbox was not then city marshal. He had refused a reappointment because he realized that with the advent of the state appointed police commission, which was inevitable, he would be deposed at once. But during this strike, which was the most riotous that Biddeford ever saw, the police seemed to be unequal to the emergency and at the request of Agent McArthur, ex-Marshal Tarbox was appointed a special policeman. One noon there was something approaching a riot at the upper Laconia gate. The police officers who were there were powerless to keep order. It was just as the bells were ringing in at 10 minutes of 1. Those who were going to work were greeted with all kinds of assaults, by words and otherwise, by the strikers without. It soon came to that pass that the gate was blocked and those who wanted to go in could not. And so was the street blocked, by a savage crowd of strikers, from the gate to Post street corner. It was as ugly and desperate a crowd as Biddeford ever saw on any occasion.

In the midst of the turmoil Tarbox arrived. Some of his old officers, Ramsey, Charnold and Tate were stationed at the gate. They were powerless. They needed a leader. A saw mill team had just passed with a load of kindling wood. A little piece, not as large as a lath, had fallen on. Seizing this, and with no other weapon, Tarbox jumped into that angry mob, waiting right and left with the blunder stick. It was the spirit of the man, not the little stick that cowed and drove the crowd. The gate and the street were cleared and what had promised to become a serious riot melted before the nerve of one man.

It was nerve, all right, a kind of nerve that not half a dozen men in Biddeford, with no other authority than a special police officer's badge, and no other weapon than a stick of kindling wood, would have been equal to.

### An Important Bearing.

This is a departure but it has an important bearing on Biddeford's political history. It tends to show something of the character and supreme qualifications of the man who was then at the head of Biddeford's police force and who was installed out of office by the police commission act.

And lest some readers, understanding that The Record is nominally a Democratic paper, should have an idea that the merits and abilities of Fred A. Tarbox are being presented from a Democratic standpoint, the writer will state that in all the time Tarbox was at the head of Biddeford's police force, and for two years subsequently for that matter, he was employed by the Journal, a political opponent to Marshal Tarbox, following the policy of the paper by which he was employed, a policy as harsh as some may judge The Record's

present policy toward the present police force.

Fred A. Tarbox was the head of Biddeford's police force for four years. In all that time, and stormy political times they were too, bitter and hostile as the Journal and Times were, no representative of those papers can say that he was not as fairly and courteously and confidentially treated by Tarbox and his officers as the representatives of the organs of the Democracy, the Standard.

How different from Harmon and his sycophant, stool pigeons, serving under the state appointed police commission.

With knowledge of and experience with police administrations and the political history of Biddeford, admitting that the Tarbox administration, like most police administrations, went to extreme lengths in politics, the writer can conceive of a police commission that might not be an evil, that might not be objectionable. In stead of three commissioners, creations of politics, INTERESTED IN RUM SHOPS, FIGUREHEADS TO DO THE BIDDING OF POLITICAL BOSSSES, imagine a police commission made up of men who have no partisan interest in politics, and no interest in rum shops, with a police force of men picked for police ability and not for political purposes, headed by a man like Fred A. Tarbox, who has now been away from Biddeford long that he is all out of touch with Biddeford politics, who would bring to the office the broader, non-partisan characteristics which fix the standard in Massachusetts, who would hold office or forfeit it according to his merits as a policeman and not as a politician.

### A Warranted Digression.

As has been stated, the whole situation in Biddeford hinges on the police question. The whole situation is the county even, hinges upon the Biddeford police question.

And so, while today's installment of The Record's review is made up rather more of comment than of history, the connection will be seen to be important.

The police question will be taken up later and the following installment will get back to the strictly political history of one of the most stirring and important years of Biddeford's history, the year 1890.

It is a rich field, this political history of Biddeford, and there is lots of time in which to tell it, all the time from now until election day. As for the interest that Record readers and others are taking in it, there is no doubt about that. "Stretch it out," "Give us more of it," "Give us all the details." This is the demand, and this warrants digressions, comments and reminiscences.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Disfranchisement of 400 Voters —The Riotous Election of 1890 When the Police Filled the Jail With Sheriffs.

(Continued From January 11.)

The election results in 1888 and 1889 had satisfied the Republicans upon two points. First that they could not win the city back in an open election, and second, that in a legitimate election, with only such issues as the administration could furnish them, they could not hope for success.

The French vote, which at this time was practically solidly Democratic, was the balance of power. As they had been unable to buy over or win over this vote, the question was how to get rid of it.

### The Disfranchisement.

Many foreign born citizens had been naturalized in the municipal court of this city. There had previously been a question as to the authority of this court to naturalize, ex-Judge John S. Derby, while editor of the Standard, having first raised the point, but neither side cared to press it, since both had been working the naturalization bill for all it was worth. But some of the Republican leaders, as the time for another election drew near, happened to think about this quibble. They saw in it a possible salvation. If the Biddford court had no authority to naturalize then those who had paid their money for naturalization papers issued by this court and had voted upon them in good faith could be deprived of the right to vote. This would to a large degree eliminate the troublesome French vote, as the majority of those of that nationality had taken out papers from the Biddford court.

### A Test Case.

The first thing was to make a test case and find out whether the naturalization papers issued by the Biddford court were valid or not. As the result of numerous earnest counsels of the Republican leaders at the York club, John B. Gregory was selected to furnish the test case. He had taken out his first papers in the Biddford court. He was sent to Portland for his second papers and the decision from the Portland court was just what the Republican leaders had hoped it would be, namely, that the Biddford court had not the authority to naturalize.

This was before the registration law had been passed. The aldermen were then the only registration board. Accordingly John Moody, Republican alderman from ward 3, acting under the direction of the York club steering committee, introduced a petition in the board of aldermen asking that some 400 men, whose names had been secured from the municipal court records as having been naturalized by that court, be summoned to appear before the board and show cause why their names should not be stricken from the voting lists.

### Democrats Defiant.

This petition met with the fate which might have been anticipated. It was turned down solidly by the five Democratic aldermen. Election was close at hand. The aldermen went over the checklist as usual and nobody's name was stricken because of this quibble.

The Republican leaders were deeply incensed by this Democratic defiance. They made all sorts of threats and frequent conclaves were held to see what could be done to compel the Democrats to eliminate these names from the list or at least prevent them from voting.

They could not move the Democrats, who rightly maintained that it was none of their business what some Republican lawyer had given as his opinion of the validity of the naturalization papers issued by the Biddford court. Those who held such papers were determined to vote and the Democratic leaders were determined that they should vote. The latter denounced as an outrage this scheme of wholesale disfranchisement.

### A Desperate Scheme.

Then the Republican leaders, a few days before election went to the Republican sheriff and laid out to him a desperate scheme. It was that he should send to Biddford as many of his deputies as he could gather and appoint for the occasion a lot of special deputies to prevent these men from voting and to arrest those who attempted to.

Eleven morning saw a remarkable array of deputy sheriffs and special deputies in town. They had come

from all parts of the county, a score of them, and they were reinforced by the regular local deputies and a number of Republicans who had been sworn in as special deputies for the occasion. In all there must have been 85 or 40 who were sporting deputy sheriff's badges that morning. Among the number was former City Marshal, former United States Marshal, Charles B. Harmon. He had by that time out of all Democratic allegiances, had been adopted with open arms by some of the Republican leaders and had even participated in some of the counsels which had led up to this mastering of deputies and interference of the county sheriff in local politics.

### Democrats Were Ready.

But the Democrats were not caught napping. They knew all about the Republican scheme and met them at their own game. Before it was time for the polls to open about every policeman, regular and special reported for duty to City Marshal Tarbox and in addition about 100 other Democratic workers were sworn in as special deputies for the day. The City building was Democratic headquarters and the Savings bank building, in which the Journal office was then located, was headquarters for the deputy sheriffs.

It looked like trouble, all right, and it was not a misleading outlook. It was evident that some of the stranger deputies were a little uneasy even before the polls opened. Police badges outnumbered sheriff badges fully four to one and it was early apparent that the people who were about town were in sympathy with the Democrats in about the same proportion.

There was no doubt about the determination of the Democrats. They had closed the campaign with a rally urging everybody whose name was on the lists to vote and promising protection to them if they did vote. Arrangements had been made for the furnishing of bail in any amount that might be required.

### A Day Of Riot.

That was the most riotous election day that Biddford ever saw. As it became time for the polls to open the deputies and police were distributed by assignment until every ward in the city had its coterie. The only feeling was apparent enough and the trouble was not long in starting. It began in a "bloody ward" 4. There was a jostle and pull here. Deputy Sheriff Obed Stackpole pulled his revolver. That was enough. Half a dozen special policemen upon the deputy and in a trice he was hustled to jail. That was the signal all over town. Every deputy that gave any excuse for the act was hustled to jail. The deputies at first mildly retaliated. Two Democratic workers were seized in ward 4 and taken over to Saco jail, but they were soon bailed out. Police Officer Charland was also arrested and taken to Saco jail, but the Democrats had had all the best of this arresting business. City Marshal Tarbox had the old jail filled with deputies by noon time and some of them had been pretty roughly handled. Nor could the Republican leaders work it so as to get their deputies out on bail. After he had got the cells filled and seen the deputies who were at large driven from the polling places, City Marshal Tarbox "got lost." He could not be found to serve any process upon by which the release of the prisoners could be secured. The deputies stayed in jail until after the polls closed.

It was a turbulent forenoon. By afternoon the deputies had given up all effort to intimidate the voters and were laying low in offices, that is those who were not in jail. From the shipyard to Harmon's corner it was one surging mob. Every deputy who was arrested would be followed by a hooting crowd until the police station doors closed on him. Hundreds stood in front of the police station all day.

### Deputy Sheriff Harmon.

As has been stated, ex-Marshal Harmon was one who had been adorned with a deputy's badge and he was the man of all men that the Democrats

were looking for. But Harmon was discreet enough to keep out of sight. When his brother deputies were being dragged to jail he was watching proceedings from the Journal office window in the Savings bank building. When the mob became too wild outside, Special Deputy Harmon discreetly withdrew from the window. When he left the Journal office to go home to dinner at noon he was followed by a mob with every kind of a hoot and jeer to which he made no reply.

After dinner Deputy Harmon was not in evidence. This explains why he did not get into jail. It is doubtful if any man ever got such hooting on the streets of a Maine city as Charles B. Harmon did that forenoon. Had he taken any part in ward room proceedings there is no telling what the result would have been.

### The Result At The Polls.

Mayor Staples, who was again the candidate that year was elected by 350 majority over Dr. John Lord. Previous to caucuses, the Republicans had made desperate efforts to induce Robert McArthur to stand as candidate. A petition which was signed by 400 men, half the voting strength of the party, had been presented to Mr. McArthur but he could not be induced to accept the nomination.

## Five Democratic Aldermen Indicted, Tried and Acquitted on Charge of Conspiring in the Federal Court.

(Continued From January 12.)

Probably nothing in the line ever equalled the justification meeting held by the victorious Democrats in City hall the evening of that riotous election day. There were the wildest cheers for everybody who had taken an active part in the battle, particularly for Mayor-Elect Staples and City Marshal Tarbox.

Everybody had to make some kind of a speech and how they flayed Harmon in particular and the Republican leaders in general! The War Eagle and Col. F. W. Roberts and others who have since come over to the Democratic side had a fling at the former Democratic city and United States marshal who had that day taken the Republican deputy sheriff's badge.

It had been a wild day and the evening was as wild as the day, though Democratic temper had changed greatly with the announcement of the result. As for Republican there was hardly one to be found in sight after the result had been announced.

### Threats Fell Flat.

Of course there were all kinds of threats about what was going to be done to the wicked Democrats who had filled the jail full of Republicans. Tarbox and his police and all the Democratic leaders had got to go to state prison, sure thing. There were warrants enough issued from the Biddford court to have filled a wheelbarrow. There were various preliminary hearings "were" conducted by large audiences, with the result that "probable cause" was the prevailing judgment against the Democrats who were tried and they were bound over to the grand jury. These trials in the lower court dragged on for weeks and then followed a number of indictments by the grand jury and it was expected that there would be some trials at the May term of Superior court which would rival in interest the famous repeater trial.

Est like most political matters which get into court the bottom dropped out. Nobody was punished and the election day riots passed into history with the repeater trial.

### Republicans Persisted.

Est the Republicans persisted in their disfranchisement scheme. A fall election was in order and they started in again to compel the aldermen to cut off the 400 voters who had been naturalized by the Biddford court. Deputy Sheriff Goldthwaite, in obedience to the York club steering committee, appeared before the aldermen with a long list of these names and the demand that they should be stricken from the list. This, the aldermen refused to do, but they did other summons to these men to appear and show cause why they should not be stricken from the lists, as by that time the illegality of the naturalization papers had been thoroughly passed upon by competent legal opinion. But the wedding out of these names was not carried out as extensively as the York club leaders had intended it should be.

There was a hard fight made to carry Biddford through the fall. The Republicans had been provided with a good bundle and the stripping of the checklist had cut down the Democratic vote considerably. Yet for all this the Democrats went out of Biddford with a majority of 78. In that election, active as the canvass was, but 1885 votes had been cast, while in the preceding fall election the total vote had been 3305. This falling off of nearly 500 in the vote was largely the result of the disfranchisement scheme.

### Aldermen Arrested.

Having failed once more in spite of the disfranchisement scheme and the alliance formed with Harmon and the other Democrats as he had intended to go with him into the Republican camp, the Republicans resorted to the familiar tactics of going to court. That has been the history of the party in Biddford, to ask the courts and the legislature to give them what they could not take at the polls. The York club steering committee sent witnesses before the grand jury of the United States court and secured the indictment of the five Democratic aldermen on the charge of conspiracy, said conspiracy consisting of the alleged illegal work done by the aldermen on the checklist. The reason the matter was taken into the United States court was that the election of a representative to congress had been involved. Furthermore, Biddford Republicans had carried their quarrels into the county court so often and with such disappointing results that they thought they would stand a better chance of getting their revenge before the federal court and it was revenge that they were looking for.

So the United States deputy marshal came out here and served the papers on the following, who were members of the board of aldermen: Edward Huesey, Fred M. Ross, Fredrick Yates, David Garasche, George F. Parcher.

This was regarded by the general public, outside of politics, as the culmination of outrages, but it is the aldermen had to go to Portland and stand trial as conspirators.

### Found Not Guilty.

The trial lasted five days. District

Attorney Dyer prosecuted the case and the aldermen were defended by Judge Stout, assisted by several local attorneys. The trial was not of much interest, so far as the testimony was concerned and the prosecution was miserably in the attempt to uphold the charge of conspiracy.

The jury was out but a very few minutes and returned a verdict of not guilty. The aldermen and the others who had attended the trial came out at 6 o'clock and were met at the depot by a cheering crowd and a band. There was a large throng in City square and the aldermen were given a regular reception in City building, while the irrepressible War Eagle made a memorable speech from a hotel window. The War Eagle used some pretty rank language that night, but the crowd liked it. The Record which he designated the Republican leader, and evidently a first-hand description of the same time since he became a close associate of theirs.

### Harmon a Deputy.

When the new county administration came in the first of the next year ex-City Marshal, ex-United States City Marshal Harmon was rewarded for his services to his new party by a regular appointment as deputy sheriff. Aldermen Huesey and Ross were appointed special deputies to enforce the prohibitory law. How different the Republican deputy sheriff enforced the liquor law from the Republican deputy City Marshal Harmon eight years before! The only thing paid in the run line that the new deputy paid any attention to was the Democratic city liquor agency, but in spite of his attentions the agency continued to dispense liquor for some more mechanical purposes in such volume as to make Harmon and the Journal sweat blood.

### The Registration Law.

Doubtless the troubles in Biddford had considerable influence in bringing about the registration law. At all events, such a law was passed that winter and since then no Biddford aldermen have been indicted by the United States court.

But the Republicans were still far from happy, for in the election of 1891 Mayor Staples was elected by 515 votes. The Republicans made no fight that year.

### Ward Caucuses.

One feature of municipal politics of these years has been passed over but it may as well be referred to here, for it was a feature worth mentioning and unlike anything we have now, days and that was the caucus fights for ward nominations for constables. Of course there were contests for other nominations which were sometimes sharp, notably several fights in the ward 6 Democratic caucuses for nomination for alderman and councilman. Former Aldermen Norman West and Peter Souleau were the principals in two very exciting caucus contests, in both of which the former was the winner, though it was claimed that Souleau had the most votes.

But there were always half a dozen candidates for constable with a few drummed up every voter in the ward and a good many from outside the ward as well, with the result that ward caucuses had large attendance and general caucuses do now.

And the wrangles and trickery and rows that resulted from these caucuses would make a history in themselves. The hardest fought of these caucus battles were in wards 2, 6 and 7. When the Republicans thought they had the chance to carry a ward they took their caucus fights over the constable nomination, but they were not so numerous or lively as the Democrats were continually having.

The word "graft" was not known then, but the explanation of his hostile for constable nominations is furnished by that word. "Graft," in the run business, for the ward constable was just as big a man as the sheriff or city marshal.

### DIED IN LYNN.

Edward H. Ricker received word today of the death of his sister, Mrs. Sarah Meserve in Lynn, Mass., yesterday. She had suffered from a heart trouble and other complications for some time and her death, though sudden, was not a surprise. Mrs. Meserve lived in Scarborough and was the widow of Andrew Meserve of that town. She had been visiting relatives in Lynn, where she died. She leaves two brothers, Edward H. of this city and Frank of Lynn and one sister, Mrs. Henry Hardin of Haverhill. She was 64 years old and a native of Saco.

—Charles L. Foss, a painter by trade, died at his home, 6 West Myrtle street, this morning at the age of 38 years and 10 months. He is survived by a mother, Mrs. Ellen Foss, and by a brother, Mr. Charles H. Foss and a sister, Mrs. Charles H. Foss. The funeral will be given tomorrow.

—N. Goodbody, real estate agent, has sold the Larocque farm in Saco to John Logan of Gorham.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Impeachment of Judge Hamilton, the Trial Before the State Legislature and His Removal.

*(Continued From January 18.)*  
During the latter part of 1890 there were strained relations between Judge Charles S. Hamilton of the Biddeford police court and City Marshal Tarbox. Their relations grew more strained and the spring election of 1891 had hardly passed before some of the York club leaders conceived that it would be a good thing to get rid of Judge Hamilton.

These good men of the York club came to a sudden realization that Judge Hamilton's conduct, from a moral standpoint was not such as it should be. To be sure his conduct had not altered materially with the year past, but the idea of ousting him and having Editor Prescott of the Journal appointed in his place proved popular with certain ones who were then the leading spirits of the York club.

### He Would Not Resign.

They beat about the bush in all kinds of ways and offered the judge the opportunity of resigning, but he was not inclined to accept that proposition. In the meantime the trouble between the judge and Marshal Tarbox had become acute and the former's indiscretions were, as a result, given more publicity than formerly. This all played into the scheme of those who wanted to get rid of him.

The charges against the judge were put in proper form and taken to Augusta and after considerable juggling an impeachment trial before the fall legislature was ordered. B. F. Chadbourne, who was then a member of the house from Biddeford, fought loyally to save the judge, but the best he could secure was a hearing before the legislature on the merits of the case.

### The Impeachment Trial.

Hon. J. O. Bradbury of Saco and Orville D. Baker of Augusta were the counsel against Judge Hamilton and B. F. Hamilton, Geo. F. Haley and Herbert M. Heath of Augusta were the counsel in defense. The speaker of the House was the judge and the members of the House and Senate the jury. The hearing was public and the hall of representatives in which it was held was daily crowded with spectators of both sexes and all ages.

An army of witnesses on both sides was on hand from this city and Saco, policemen, politicians, deputy sheriffs, reporters, lawyers, representatives from about every line.

There was lots of lobbying and the legislature was divided in sympathies, but the anti-Hamilton pull was the strongest, though the Hamilton sympathies were rabid and stubborn, taking the view of it that it was a political job and that Judge Hamilton was as good as his accusers. There was savage talk in the lobbies during the hearing and about the hotels in the evening.

### Dirty Linen Washed.

That was when Biddeford's dirty political linen was flanneted before the whole state. The effort on both sides seemed to be to make it show up as dirty as possible, and all the bad odor did not surround Judge Hamilton, by any means.

The trial lasted the best part of a week. At Lawyer Baker's office witnesses against the judge were heard and released. O. E. Atwood acted as chief steers for the anti-Hamilton element and Deputy Sheriff J. W. Small, who had also had a falling out with the judge, was also very active.

### Unwilling Witnesses.

Many of those who had been summoned as witnesses were unwilling to give testimony, for Judge Hamilton was popular and had been a good friend to many who might have given more or less damaging testimony against him. The result was that witness after witness was put upon the stand by the prosecution who said as much as possible in the judge's favor and as little as possible against him.

As a result most of the questions were more suggestive of sensational developments than the replies were. In fact the counsel for the defense had successfully forestalled all that would be offered and it was a very weak case that was made out in the early days of the trial. Those who had been in attendance daily in anticipation of something very sensational were just about discouraged.

### The Vital Testimony.

But one night J. W. Small landed in

Augusta with two female companions who were quickly hustled out of sight within Hotel North. A few had got sight of them but nobody could tell who they were. Nor were the Judge's counsel and friends able to learn though they tried by every means. There was some evidence they were not prepared for, but they did not have to wait long in the morning.

A comely young woman was called to the stand and she gave evidence which greatly changed the outlook. Without this witness, a table girl at the Mousam house, Kennebunk, who had been dug out by the zealous prosecutors of the Judge, he would never have been removed but the hearing would have practically amounted to a vindication.

Or if all that array of witnesses and prosecutors had followed the command, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" there would not have been evidence enough to have occupied half an hour's time.

### Raid Hypocrisy.

This impeachment trial was notorious in the annals of the state for many things, but it was in nothing more notorious than in the hypocrisy of those who were helping along the prosecution.

There were men who were notoriously guilty of every offense that was charged against Judge Hamilton, fairly wringing their hands in horror to impress upon the legislators what a terrible disgrace it was to Biddeford to have Judge Hamilton occupy the bench, and how keenly they felt that disgrace. There were men seeking whiskey and beer by night in the hotel rooms who appeared upon the witness stand the next morning to testify with pious gravity that they had sometimes seen the accused when they thought he was under the influence of liquor.

The girl from the Mousam house, who was an extremely unwilling witness at the first, gave the evidence which clinched the case against the accused, but even then prejudice was so strong that it seemed doubtful if the necessary number of votes would be secured to remove him.

### Great Arguments.

Lawyer Heath made an eloquent appeal for the accused, speaking for an hour and a half. Then a recess was taken and at that time, judging from the talk in the corridors it did not seem probable that the vote would be to remove.

The writer talked with Attorney Baker during this recess. Mr. Heath was being congratulated upon his argument and the friends of the Judge seemed satisfied.

"I'll have my turn now," said Mr. Baker. "Watch me talk Gray around."

Gray was a member from Yarmouth who occupied a front seat close to the attorney's tables. He was the most rabid Hamilton sympathizer in the whole legislature. He had been so from the first and had had numerous fiery altercations with members who took the other view and with witnesses against the Judge. He was a square jawed man of about 60 and didn't look at all like a promising subject to "talk over" after he had made up his mind.

### "Talking Over" Gray.

Mr. Baker began his argument. He stood near Gray, almost in front of him. The latter swung around in his seat as nearly back to the lawyer as his seat would allow. It was a discourtesy which the speaker seemed to regard as a challenge and it seemed as though he was addressing most of his argument to Gray, personally. One might even have thought at times that it was Representative Gray instead of Judge Hamilton who was being impeached.

Mr. Baker was a scrupulous dresser. Colored shirts and collars of the minstrel pattern were in vogue then. Mr. Baker wore a pink and white shirt with a high standing collar of the same color. After he had warmed up to his argument the collar began to droop. After an hour it lay around his neck as limp and shapeless as a strip of oilcloth. Mr. Baker probably hadn't had an equal in this state in his generation. He had the material for an argument in this case and he made the best of it. It was a powerful argument, an awful arraignment, a defiant challenge to any member of the legislature to refuse to do his duty as he conceived

and presented it.

He had not talked long when Gray's face turned a little toward him. Gradually he twisted from his position until he faced the attorney. Then as though fascinated his face came forward until it seemed that he leaned over his desk to get as near the eloquent speaker as possible. He had smiled and nodded approvingly as Mr. Heath had spoken. His eyes were riveted upon Mr. Baker's face as though he could not remove them. He did not remove them until the end of the argument.

### Judge Hamilton Removed.

Adjournment was made at the conclusion of Mr. Baker's argument until evening, but when the vote was taken Gray voted with the others to remove Judge Hamilton. Mr. Baker had not over estimated his powers when he had said at the close of Mr. Heath's argument: "Watch me talk Gray around."

The witness from the Mousam house and Baker's argument did the business and there was a vacancy in the Biddeford municipal court judgeship and the way open for another political fight in Biddeford, and it was on immediately.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Contest for the Judgeship-Why Mr. Prescott Did Not Land-Harmon's Raid on the Liquor Agency-The Fall Election.

*(Continued From January 14.)*  
Judge Hamilton having been removed there at once became a hot fight for the judgeship.

The candidates were Recorder Edwin J. Cram, who had held that position under Judge Hamilton, presiding over the court very much of the time and whose conception of right and justice had been too finely drawn to suit some of the Republican leaders, and O. H. Prescott of the Journal, who had been picked by many as Judge Hamilton's successor from the beginning of the impeachment proceedings. It was generally supposed that Editor Prescott would win. Recorder Cram had quite strong local backing, but if backing had determined the appointment, Editor Prescott would have won in a walk. He not only had the York club almost solidly behind him, but also the most influential politicians of the county and the state, Congressman Reed and others of the big name lending their influence by petition and otherwise.

### Why Prescott Lost.

But Editor Prescott could not have won that appointment if he had had the backing of the President and entire Congress with the whole of the Maine legislature thrown in. Governor Edwin S. Burleigh had the appointment, of course, and Gov. Burleigh also had a bone to pick with Editor Prescott.

Gov. Burleigh had had quite a hard row to hoe to capture the nomination. Henry B. Cleaves gave him a hard fight and Editor Prescott not only supported Mr. Cleaves ardently, but he said some very nasty things in his paper about the greed of Kennebunk county. Gov. Burleigh's paper, the Kennebunk Journal, had held the Biddeford Journal a sharp argument and when finally the Augusta man landed the nomination he did not feel that he was in the least under obligations to Editor Prescott, who had accented the result of the convention with rather poor grace.

And so, in vain were the lengthy Prescott petitions forwarded to Augusta. It was vain that the politicians of the supposed pull lay down on Gov. Burleigh by letter and in interview.

Judge Cram was appointed, and a bitter humiliation it was to the York club. At last accounts the breach between ex-Governor, now Congressman Burleigh had not been healed.

### Agency Raided.

It was quiet politically for the rest of the year, at least as quiet as it ever is in Biddeford, politically.

As has before been stated in this review the city liquor agency was a perpetual nightmare to Harmon, from the time he donned his deputy sheriff's badge, as it has long been to the Journal, who at that time was a very strong advocate of prohibition. It wasn't regard for the prohibitory law, however, that made the agency so irksome to Harmon. There was a scheme already in the minds of the Republican leaders, of whom he had speedily become one, that the proper kind of prohibition would be a prohibition that prohibited any body who was not a Republican from selling rum and that had been the gist about the situation after Harmon and Small had been special liquor deputies. Two things stood in the way of the complete realization of this kind of prohibition, the Democratic police force and the Democratic city liquor agency.

After much watching and plotting Harmon jumped into the city liquor agency and seized a big load of liquor of every description. He had studied up some shrewd point, as he thought, which made the agency liable to a seizure like any common rumshop.

That break created considerable excitement and when Judge Cram, after the case had been heard in court, failed to be impressed with the force of Harmon's shrewd point and ordered the seized liquor returned, he felt greatly in the estimation of Harmon and others. It was a hard one, after all the time Harmon had put in trying to get the drop on the agency, as he supposed.

### Spill It, the Ory.

About this time the deputies were making other seizures from those who they deemed should be converted politically, before they were permitted to sell rum. The rum business was confined then to drug stores, of which there were about half as many in the city as at present, two or three out of the way and barlike barrooms and a few club rooms and kitchen dives. So far as politics were concerned, both parties were about equally represented among those in the rum business and as when Harmon and Small jumped on a Democrat City Marshal Tarbox responded by jumping on a Republican.

The police spilled what liquor they seized as soon as the libels expired, but the deputies had been seizing considerable and had not had a single spilling bee. It was claimed, rightfully or wrongfully, that the liquor the deputies seized was being sold and the cry "spill it" was raised, and there was a spilling, though it was not believed that any part of the liquor seized by the deputies found its way into the sewer. This charge of crookedness was openly made and there having been no libel suits, the presumption is there was some truth in the charge.

### The Campaign of '92.

The campaign of the following

spring was not very lively. The Democrats had now been nine years in power, and for all the assaults upon their administration by the Journal and Times and for all the scheming and all the strange bellowings who had been adopted the prospects were that they would continue in power for nine years more. The Republicans had not the courage in the spring of 1892 to put up anything like a fight. There had been the usual meetings at the York club in which the prospects had been gone over and there had been the usual number who had been in favor of raising a boodle and going in for a fight, but they were in a minority. At the same time Harmon had instituted the Oram club, the original Oram club, designed as a rendezvous for less exclusive voters than had the centre at the York club. This is believed to have been the first experiment in making Republican voters by Oram feeds. It was not a success that year. It remained for the Industrial League to make claims productive of Republican votes.

Again Mayor Staples was the candidate and again B. H. Ingersoll was his opponent and again Mayor Staples won by a majority of 385.

Here was the solid Democratic majority, year after year, in the face of all the scheming, ranging from 300 to 500, and still the Republican leaders were claiming that Biddeford was naturally a Democratic city.

### The Fall Election.

The Democrats made an earnest try for the county that fall. In the spring Saco had broken the Republican bonds which had held it so long and become carried four wards. This, of course encouraged the county fight. Jere G. Shaw was the candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket and Biddeford did handsomely by him, giving him a majority of 350. The Democrats carried every ward on most of the tickets and elected Charles H. McKenney and John B. Fare representatives to the legislature. It was not then anticipated that Biddeford representatives would have to defend the good name of the city against the libel and slander of the rest of the state, for at that time there was no suspicion of the Democratic side, and it is believed no thought on the Republican side of the desperate scheme of having Biddeford deprived by the State legislature of the right of self government and putting the police department of the city under a State appointed police commission.

There was nothing else doing during the year 1892 except ordinary spasms on the part of Harmon in connection with the rum business, so far as the general public knew, but there was a vital scheme hatching on the quiet in the latter part of the year.

It was the police commission scheme. We have now arrived at that.

Biddeford Record  
Jan. 16-1904  
**MUNICIPAL POLITICS  
OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.**

**The Police Commission Scheme—  
Charles B. Harmon and Louis  
Stuart Its Originators—The  
Prime Objects of the Scheme.**

(Continued From January 15.)  
We have now come to the turning of the tide in local politics, to the act by which the city of Biddeford was put under state guardianship and held up before the whole state and the whole of New England as being incapable of self government.

Nothing else has had such an influence upon Biddeford, politically and moral, as the passage of the police commission law by the legislature of 1893.

It is a matter that the writer will go into more thoroughly than any other matter in that review has been gone into. There are some things which might be told which will not be gone into in detail, but every reader is assured that not a statement or assertion will be made in this matter which is not strictly a matter for proof, if required and which the writer guarantees to furnish if called upon to do so.

What the writer does assert is that he knows just as much about the police commission scheme, from inception to realization, as Charles B. Harmon, or anybody else.

**The Objects.**

It might be said that there were three primary objects in the securing of the police commission law. They were:

First to provide political jobs for two men, Charles B. Harmon and Louis Stuart.

Second, to wrest Biddeford from Democratic control.

Third, to accomplish this and render that control permanent by building up just such a system as was later built up, commonly known as the Biddeford run syndicate.

While it is possible, and probably true, that influences were commanded upon a representation of higher motives, the fact remains that with those who conceived the scheme and pushed it through to a realization, these were the prime motives.

With the engineers of this police commission plan there was never a shadow of an honest purpose, never mind what representations were made, or what arguments were used, privately or before the legislature.

**Harmon and Stuart.**

From the time Harmon came over to the Republican side he had had his eye on the position he had filled under the Democrats, before being made United States Marshal. He wanted to be marshal of Biddeford again. It was his one aim. He had become to hate those who had befriended him. He could conceive of no greater satisfaction than to be restored to his old office.

Charles B. Harmon worships power, not money, though by virtue of the police commission act he is enabled to combine the two. They talk about unloading Harmon and getting some government job for him. Give Harmon his choice between a government clerkship at \$2000 a year, with no power connected and the position of chief of police of Biddeford with the power that goes with the office and salary and fees limited to bare living expenses, and he would choose the latter. Wouldn't you, Charles?

Louis Stuart had been a former Democratic police officer. He had fallen out with the Democratic leaders, as Harmon had. He and Harmon had become to be fast friends, politically and otherwise. Louis Stuart was a shrewd and thoughtful politician. No farther proof is needed than the notorious fact that until the day of his death, years after he and Harmon had fallen out and were not on speaking terms, Louis Stuart defied Harmon openly and aggressively, politically and otherwise and still held his place on the police force.

It was Stuart's ambition to get back on the police force. He had a double motive. He wanted a job which was new to his taste, that show-making which trade was on the wane and which was useless locally. A. D. 1893, which was the year of the birth of the police commission scheme. His other motive was, like Harmon's, that he had become to be a special mark for the local Democracy, a particular mark for the Standard and for the War Eagle and other Democratic

speakers at rallies and justification meetings, and so, like Harmon, Stuart could not have conceived of greater gratification than would be afforded him by the wearing of the blue coat and buttons which had been stripped from him by the Democrats. Harmon and Stuart had made themselves useful to the Republicans and there were many of that faith who were willing to see their ambitions gratified.

**Motive No. 2.**

The second motive behind the police commission scheme has been set forth as having been to enable the Republicans to wrest the city from the Democrats who had held it ten years.

This motive hardly needs analysis. We have seen how efforts had failed to capture the city through wholesale bribery, through ordinary campaign methods, through the outrageous disfranchisement of 400 voters, through intimidation by the aid of an army of deputy sheriffs, had failed in fact, in spite of every scheme and dodge that the Republican leaders could think up. This was the motive that appealed much more strongly to the Republican leaders generally than did the ambitions of Harmon and Stuart to again wear the badge of office, or to gratify the hard feeling they entertained toward the Democratic leaders whom they had formerly served and who had taken the one from his shoemaker's bench and the other from the desk of a country school to give them political jobs which paid much better.

**Motive No. 3.**

The third motive which has been assigned for the police commission scheme, is that by control of the police department the Republicans would be able to secure permanent control over liquor sellers and make use of them for political purposes. This would be a great relief to those who had contributed their money and signed names which they had had to care for, for election boodle until they could stand the drain no longer. It was all mapped out, how the run business could be made to take care of party finances. The best proof that this motive is not misstated will be found in the developments and conditions which followed upon the installation of the police commission, which will be noted later.

These, then, were the three prime motives behind the police commission scheme:

To give Harmon and Stuart jobs and an opportunity to gratify political ill will.

To gain control of the city.

To manipulate this run business.

**Who Fathered It?**

There may be a general idea that the police commission scheme was a product of the Republican leaders, that is to say of the old party leaders of the York club who had originated other political schemes which have been referred to.

In justice to them it may be stated that this is not the fact. The police commission scheme was the joint product of Charles B. Harmon and Louis Stuart and in the origin of the scheme the latter was probably more active than the former. These two had faith that a police commission could be secured for Biddeford when nobody else in the city believed it possible or even practicable. In no other way could they see a possibility of realizing their ambition to again wear the badges of police authority. Stuart sent away and received copies of various other police commission laws and he and Harmon made a study of the matter.

When they first broached the subject to the Republican leaders the latter fairly ridiculed the scheme and treated the proposition so discouragingly that any others than Harmon and Stuart would have been discouraged and abandoned the scheme. On the contrary their faith in the possibilities grew. They labored to convince others. If they did not convince them of the possibility of getting such a measure through the legislature they at least interested them and drew from them the admission that a police commission would be a great thing for the Republican party in Biddeford. With characteristic persistency and push Harmon gave them no rest. O. M. Moses, O. E. Prescott, B. F. Hamilton, B. H. Ford, O. E. Aswood and others who were then at the head of the party began to consider the scheme which they had at first derided and discouraged as a possibility that might be worth trying.

The Democrats had heard of the scheme but they made light of it. It was inconceivable to them that the legislature of Maine could be induced or beguiled into passing a special law of this kind for Biddeford alone, in order to make jobs for Harmon and Stuart and to help the Republican party to gain control of the city after ten years' failure to acquire that control by a free ballot.

This police commission scheme was hatched in the late fall of 1892 and Louis Stuart and Charles B. Harmon were the ones who hatched it. The origin of this plot to deprive Biddeford of self government cannot in truth be laid to the Republican leaders.

**MUNICIPAL POLITICS  
OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.**

**Engineering the Police Commission  
Plot Through the Legislature—Two  
Pledges it Was Necessary to  
Make—One Shut Out Harmon.**

(Continued From January 16.)

While the police commission scheme had been more or less under discussion at the York club and at other places where the Republican leaders gathered, it was not until the winter before the party leaders concluded to make the desperate play Harmon and Stuart had for weeks been so persistently urging upon them.

The writer was one of five present at what was undoubtedly the first of the definite conferences and councils which followed to get the scheme shaped. This conference took place at B. F. Hamilton's old office in Hooper's block, one Sunday afternoon in the winter. The four beside the writer who were present were Charles B. Harmon, Louis Stuart, B. F. Hamilton and Charles S. Hamilton. Moses Harmon and Stuart had provided copies of police commission laws in force in some other New England cities and also of by-laws and rules for the government and procedure of the commission. The issue of the matter were considered in an off hand way by the two lawyers and the whole matter in its possibilities and probabilities and in its political results were talked over.

The real launching of the scheme was at a large dinner at the hotel at that Sunday afternoon meeting. From that time on the matter was in the hands of the Republican leaders, being shaped up for the effort to get it through the legislature.

An extremely doubtful proposition, they all admitted, all except Harmon and Stuart who had faith all along that their scheme would be realized.

**Preparing Reasons.**

Of course it would not do to go before the legislature with this unusual request with no better reasons in support of it than that Harmon and Stuart wanted jobs and that the Republicans wanted the police to help them to political success. Their reasons had to be studied up and the influences of as many Republicans as possible were secured by petition and otherwise in support of the demand for the police commission were strong ones. They gave Biddeford a nice reputation abroad.

It was charged that the police were offensive to politics.

Not so under the present commission, you will note.

It was charged that they were assessed a part of their salary for the political contributions made.

Of course there is not a suspicion that the members of the Harmonized forces ever have to give up a dollar of their pay for a campaign boodle. Ask them, and they will tell you. They charged that it was not safe for women to be alone upon the streets of Biddeford, day or night, such was the disorder and so lax were the police.

The election riots were worked for all they were worth in support of the claim that Biddeford's police were dangerous desperadoes. There was no charge, in fact, that it was reckoned would influence the sentiment which was not made.

**Work On The Quiet.**

These charges were for the benefit of the public, but the real reliance of those behind the scheme was in lobbying and winning over those who would have a vote or an influence in the legislature if the matter got before that body. All the Republicans in York county who were credited with having a pull were appealed to and the assistance of the big guns of the party in other sections of the state, the experienced lobbyists and wire pullers, sought and secured. In the language of the day it was a strenuous push that was behind the police commission scheme which at its inception had had but two men behind it, Harmon and Stuart.

And yet there were some Republicans in the state who first, last and all the time opposed the police commission as an outrage and an unwarranted interference with the rights of the people to govern their own affairs. Some papers of the state opposed the scheme. The Maine Farmer attacked the measure and said, after it had got before the legislature that everybody seemed to be ashamed to stand sponsor for it.

**In the Legislature.**

In the winter of 1893 the measure was introduced in the legislature. It was introduced by the York county delegation to whom it had been referred, that it "ought to pass." The York delegation could always rely upon in the majority to do the bidding of the Biddeford bosses. The bill didn't come up for a hearing until early in March. All hope of getting it through in season for it to have any influence on the spring elections had been abandoned. In fact, while the matter was hanging fire in the House it was regarded by the Republicans that there was a hard chance of its getting through and the Democrats generally had never brought themselves to believe that so weak a measure for so transparent a purpose would be enacted.

The police commission was opposed in the Legislature by N. B. Walker, Edwin Stone, W. H. Loomer of Portland, Herbert M. Heath of Augusta, while all the Democratic leaders of the city were on hand to do what they could to defeat the bill. In support of the bill were B. F. Hamilton, Hon.

O. F. Libby of Portland and Gen. Smith of Bangor.

**It Cost Something.**

Such talent cost something. In fact it must have taken a lot of money to make the police commission march. How was it raised? Some of it in the ordinary manner of raising a political fund, but if the assertion made by some at the time are to be believed, the greater part of it came from those who expected to profit in the pecuniary way through certain illeges which were not to be enjoyed under the old police system. There were those who claimed that the promise of transmuting privileges had been extended in return for the assistance they were willing to give toward the expense, even before it was a sure thing that the commission would be established.

**Necessary Promises.**

There were some men with consciousness in the legislature of 1893, who voted for the police commission bill, accepting the rank statements of those who were pushing it as true, and believing that they were really doing something in the interests of Biddeford in supporting the bill.

But there were some things upon which they had to be most positively assured, before they would support the bill.

They were most solemnly and emphatically assured that the police commission should be non-partisan and that the police force should be kept out of politics.

The police commission could never have passed, but for this assurance.

There was one other assurance which had to be given, in order to get the necessary number of votes it was this:

THAT CHARLES B. HARMON SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN A PLACE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

This assurance was frequently demanded and as often given. Without this assurance the measure would not have commanded the support of half the York delegation.

One of these two promises was given in good faith and the other was given in bad faith.

When it was promised that the police department should be kept out of politics it was part of the bunco game just the same as it was a part of the bunco game to claim that women were not safe on the streets of Biddeford.

But when it was promised that Harmon should not have an appointment under the police commission it was a promise made in good faith for there was probably very few of the prominent party leaders who were working for the measure who had an idea of Harmon being made Chief of Police. Fifty per cent of Biddeford Republicans would have opposed the police commission if they had had an idea that Harmon was to land where he did land.

*Biddeford Record Jan 19-1904*

## MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

### The Passage of the Police Bill-How Harmon Has Rewarded Those Who Helped Him-Appointment of Non-Partisan Commission.

(Continued From January 18)

At the hearing before the legislature Louis Stuart and Geo. A. Harriman, former Democratic police, who had served under Harmon and who, as it turned out, served under him again upon the reformed, state police, gave the startling testimony that while they were on the old Democratic force they had been assessed \$25 each for campaign purposes. Deputy Sheriff Small and Parker testified as to the way they were used by the police on that riotous election day. Others testified and declared about evil conditions under the partisan police force. There was more declaration than evidence, and, as has been stated, there was more effective talk in the lobbies and corridors than there was before the legislature.

#### Their Reward.

It is interesting to note in this connection what happened to the men who were most helpful to Harmon in getting the police bill through.

Louis Stuart and Harmon were enemies until the death of the former, after a very short time from the inauguration of the police commission. Geo. A. Harriman and Harmon soon became enemies and continued enemies.

After Harmon had got to be a bigger man politically than Small their relations became very strained. Harmon never had any use for Small. Deputy Sheriff Parker came down here from North Berwick and mixed up with Harmon's room syndicate and he lost his official head at once and has since been reckoned by the Republican politicians as a parasite.

B. F. Hamilton, who did more than any one man to get the police commission bill through has been driven from all prominence in the party in which he was so strong a worker. Harmon has no more use for B. F. Hamilton today than he has for last spring's mud. No man has felt Harmon's iron heel harder than the man who did the most to give him a second lease of life.

Charles S. Hamilton was betrayed by Harmon as soon as the matter got into a position to betray him, yet Charles S. Hamilton's efforts in securing the passage of the police commission law were second only to B. F. Hamilton's.

A score of others who aided to such an extent as they were able to secure the passage of the police commission act might be named, whom Harmon has since driven from their party and with whom he is on the terms of bitter political hostility.

Of those who were most active in getting the police commission through you can count on the fingers of one hand all that there are with whom Harmon is on friendly terms today.

Harmon was just as grateful to his new found Republican friends as he was to his old time Democratic friends. He has clobbered many of the Democrats he betrayed back into his support. If he lives long enough he may clobber the Republicans back. In fact, he has some of them already.

#### The Bill Passed.

The incidents of the long hearing before the legislature need not be reviewed. The law was passed by the House March 24, the vote being 67 to 36. The Senate fell in and the bill only awaited the signature of Governor Cleaves. The Governor delayed signing it for a few days but his signature was finally given and the bill became a law, the police commission to

take effect July 1st, 1898.

The Republicans who had helped the scheme through were exultant. The Democrats could not find language strong enough for denunciation of this state interference with local rights. How Editor Roberts and the leaders raved against Harmon and those who had helped him. But the Standard had, or rather thought it had, this consolation: Harmon was not to have any appointment under the police commission.

#### The Election Of 1898.

As has been stated, the passage of the police bill had been delayed until it was too late to have any effect on the municipal election. The election was over and the new city council had been inaugurated just one day before the police bill passed. Mayor Staples had again been the candidate of the Democrats and R. H. Lugsdell of the Republicans. The former was again by a majority of 298, thus becoming a member of the non-partisan police commission, the act providing that the commission should consist of three, a chairman appointed and one member to be appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Republican leaders and the third member to be the mayor. You see that under no conditions could the Democrats have a majority representation in the board.

#### Tarbox Retires.

As he believed the police commission bill would pass, City Marshal Tarbox had no ambition to be appointed again, only to be kicked out when the new law came into effect July 1st. Mayor Staples named Daniel Cote in his place and the Democratic leaders laid plans to fight every inch of the ground before recognizing the new law.

As the times drew nearer for the new law to take effect the feeling did not subside and it has often been a question what the result might have been had Marshal Tarbox held over until the time he was supposed to give up the keys to Harmon.

#### The Appointments.

Having put up such a bluff about the purposes of the police commission at Augusta, it was necessary at the outset to give that bluff a color of sincerity in the selection of the members of the commission. At the same time it was very desirable to name such men as would not take the bits in their teeth and defeat the real purposes of the commission.

Hon. Ezra H. Banks, venerable and respected and with a scrupulously honorable record until he fell under certain influences, was recommended and appointed chairman, to give character to the board. Horace Ford was named as the other Republican commissioner, and it is important to note that because of one influence or another, Mr. Ford became a Harmon man before he was appointed.

Mayor Staples did not take any pride in the new honor conferred upon him by the new law and did not bother to attend the meetings of the commission, so that the Republican members had it all their own way. They met and adopted rules governing the board which were tinkered to suit the real purposes of the scheme. It may be remarked that it was not until half a dozen years after the police commission had been in operation that anybody knew what the rules were that governed it.

The next installment will refer more particularly to the troubles of the police commission in reaching an agreement as to who should be appointed city marshal. There was grave doubt and confusion about this and nobody knows it better than Charles B. Harmon. At times it looked as though after all the scheming he would be defeated in his ambition to again become the head of the Biddeford police department. If he had, the Citizens' party would have started earlier, by ten years. Harmon would have started it, because he would have had no other party to have worked with. The Democrats then had no use for him. He would have had no use for the Republicans, if he had been thrown down in his pet ambition.

## MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

### The Passage of the Police Bill-How Harmon Has Rewarded Those Who Helped Him-Appointment of Non-Partisan Commission.

(Continued From January 18)

No matter what the understanding may have been among those who were instrumental in securing the passage of the police bill, whether they understood that it excluded Harmon from the possibility of becoming marshal, as some of them did, or whether they believed that in the end Harmon would work things around so as to attain the desired appointment, as some of them had faith, the fact was that as soon as the bill became a law and the commissioners were appointed, Harmon became to be the most conspicuous candidate for the marshalship. His candidacy was very much helped along by the fact that Commissioner Ford was out-spoken for Harmon from the first. That was why he had been appointed. K. H. Ford was a prominent figure in Republican politics then and he was a firm believer that Harmon was the man of all men to make the police commission of most use to the party. Horace Ford was an easy convert to the same faith, so Harmon had a good start.

#### Harmon Not a Candidate.

Harmon had other friends, most influential then, as he has been ever since, in Charles M. Moses, who though then a resident of Saco for sometime, had continued to be the recognized Republican leader in Biddeford, and had been most active in securing the passage of the police bill. There is one characteristic which nobody can deny that when once he ties up to a man politically he is a through-bred and a stickler, and so, having received Harmon as an ally he has stuck by him. At various periods in the last ten years Harmon has seemed to be reeling from the stone. People have wondered what kept him up. The answer will be found in the name Charles M. Moses. Pull him out from under Harmon and down he goes.

Mr. Moses of Saco favored Harmon for city marshal of Biddeford from the first. Harmon had a personal following of former Democrats who wanted to see him land, but they cut no lee in these days. Most of them like himself, were looking for a job on the police force or a rambling privilege which they believed the police commission would open the way to.

Harmon's real backing consisted of Mr. Moses, Police Commissioner Ford and R. H. Ford. The others counted for but little. On the other hand the opposition was so strong and the promises had been made so strong that it was deemed desirable to keep people's minds off of Harmon and so in the Biddeford Journal Harmon came out with a letter over his own signature declaring most positively that he was not a candidate for the marshalship and did not want the office.

The knowing ones read this letter and smiled inwardly. The opponents of Harmon were satisfied and began looking around for other candidates.

#### Others Mentioned.

You see, the new police commission presented an odd combination at the start. Mayor Staples disputed the power and legality of the commission and had no voice in their talk about city marshals.

Chairman Banks was stubbornly opposed to Harmon. He would not listen to any talk of appointing him. He declared that no matter what anybody else thought about it that he would never vote for him, not if elected Republican in the city demanded him.

Commissioner Ford was for Harmon and nobody but Harmon and he talked it openly and he did not care what others thought about it.

So it was rather a hopeless deadlock. And while the deadlock was on other candidates were talked of. Fred L. Goodwin, now a member of the force, was one candidate suggested and he was thought pretty well of by the majority. Even Mr. Ford admitted that barring Harmon he thought better of Mr. Goodwin than anybody who had been mentioned. Timothy Elliott was another candidate and he had good backing and was understood to be the preference of Mr. Banks.

Deputy Sheriff John Fred Colthwaite was another candidate talked of. Thereby hangs a tale which has a bearing on subsequent developments. John Fred Blacklied.

John Fred had some troubles of his own. The preceding fall he had

made a play to capture the nomination of sheriff. In those days John Fred was a shining light in the Good Templars, which were powerful in the county. He made his play through them but in the course of his campaign he made some remarks about the Biddeford Journal's attitude on the rum question at a meeting of Good Templars that aroused the ire of Editor Prescott. John Fred at that time tied up to the Times and Editor Prescott liked Democrats better than he did the Times and some of the Republicans who tied up to it.

As time for the Republican convention drew near, John Fred's chances were not very good. Geo. Wentworth of North Berwick was the probable winner but to avoid a contest in the convention John Fred was induced to pull out upon the agreement that he should again be appointed deputy sheriff and that two years hence he should have the nomination for sheriff, or at least have Mr. Wentworth's influence, whatever it was worth, for it.

But when it came time for Sheriff Wentworth to name his deputies, the pressure was so strong upon him that he did not appoint John Fred. So it happened that while the selection of a city marshal under the new law was pending, John Fred was out of a job.

To remove John Fred from the field as a possible rival for Harmon, it was agreed that when the new police force came into control his appointment as deputy sheriff would be made. This was agreed to. It somewhat simplified the situation. John Fred was appointed deputy that summer. John Fred, one of the old war horses of the party, had had to bend the knee to Harmon earlier than the other war horses, but their turn all came later. They have all had to bend the knee since, all of them.

Apparently John Fred and Harmon like each other first rate at present. And if anybody should ask you if John Fred really likes Harmon today, answer them, yes, just as a cat likes rats.

#### Mr. Banks Stubborn.

Harmon's candidacy was working all right all but for one thing. That one obstacle was the stubbornness of Mr. Banks. But as continual dropping wears away the stone, so continual laying down upon Mr. Banks had to some degree softened his attitude from his first declaration that he would resign from the commission before he would vote for Harmon.

But still he was not won over. Mr. Banks continued to be strongly opposed to Harmon and he found lots of other Republicans to back him up. As the talk of Harmon continued to grow stronger a petition signed by James G. Garland and a number of other Republicans of his kind who had fought Harmon as a Democrat for years and had not forgotten the repeater incident and other incidents in which he had figured conspicuously, was presented to the police commissioners protesting against his appointment. This stiffened Mr. Banks. It offset the progress that had been made toward winning him over and Harmon seemed as far from realizing his ambition as he had been before the police commission bill had passed.

After various soundings of Mr. Banks this conclusion was arrived at by the Harmon engineers. It was that one man might possibly influence Mr. Banks and that unless he could it was all up, so far as Harmon was concerned.

That one man was C. E. Prescott. Mr. Banks was a great believer in Mr. Prescott. They had been associated in the York county savings bank and in the electric road and Mr. Banks' judgment in the matter would have great influence with him.

But at this critical juncture Mr. Prescott was out of town. He had been for some time and he was not expected home for some time.

The whole thing seemed to hinge upon Mr. Prescott's return, upon his attitude and upon his influence upon Mr. Banks.

Biddeford Record  
Jan-21-1904

## MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

### How Mr. Banks Was Influenced to Vote for Harmon for City Mar- shal-The Installation of the State Police.

(Continued From January 20.)

While those who wanted to see Harmon appointed marshal believed that Mr. Prescott was the only man who could possibly induce Mr. Banks to vote for him, there were grave doubts about Mr. Prescott being inclined to use his influence in that direction.

He had been one of the hardest workers for the passage of the police commission law and had given assurance over and over again that there was no intention or possibility of Harmon being appointed under the new law. Nor is there any reason to doubt that this assurance was given in good faith.

At that time old animosities between Prescott and Harmon had not been lived down, and it is certain that political animosities were never more bitter in this city than those two had entertained toward each other when Harmon was a Democrat. During the recent affair the Journal was particularly hard on Harmon and Harmon, being more sensitive to newspaper comment than he is now, had been goaded into such bitterness that he threatened personal violence to Editor Prescott, and the latter made no secret of the fact that for months he had carried a revolver in the expectation that it would be necessary to use it in defending himself against Harmon.

Regular "Arizona Kicker" days, were those, so different from the present.

Waiting For Prescott.

So the prospects of Harmon's landing the city marshalship were hanging upon the return of Mr. Prescott and his disposition when he got home. Some thought he could be convinced that Harmon would be the most useful man politically that could be appointed. Others believed that when he did get home he would be of the same mind as Mr. Banks and encourage the latter to stand out to the end against Harmon's appointment as stubbornly as he had stood out up to that time.

In the meantime Mr. Ford and others were doing what they could to soften Mr. Banks and were making more or less progress, though he was far from yielding. Mr. Banks had faith in Mr. Prescott and so he also was awaiting the latter's return.

Somehow the other candidates who had been named for the office did not push their claims very hard. It seemed to be recognized that Harmon's claims should first be disposed of. There was also more or less talk about who was to go on to the force in place of the Democratic policemen, for nobody doubted that they would be turned out as soon as the commissioners took the reins, but this was a matter also that had to wait until the marshaling question was settled.

Mr. Prescott Returned.

Finally Mr. Prescott got back to town and he was at once besieged in the interests of Harmon and urged to use his influence with Mr. Banks for his appointment.

At the outset Mr. Prescott declared with emphasis that he would not do anything to help Harmon, but would on the contrary oppose his appointment. He had not forgotten the past and believed it would be a great mistake politically to have Harmon at the head of the police force, as well as a rank violation of all understanding and agreement which had been necessary to get the support required for the putting through of the police

commission scheme. But much argument and great pressure were brought to bear to change his views and finally he was won over to champion Harmon with Mr. Banks and, as had been figured out in the first place, he proved the one man who could convert Mr. Banks from his stubborn opposition to Harmon.

It was done, and some time before the appointment was made it was known that Harmon was to be the man, known at least to those on the inside but still doubted by others.

Harmon Appointed.

But all doubts were set at rest when Messrs. Banks and Ford met, declared Daniel Cote removed and elected Charles B. Harmon city marshal in his place. It is hardly necessary to state that Mayor Staples did not vote for Harmon. He maintained that Daniel Cote was City marshal and that the police commission was illegal and he fought it out on that line as long as there was any use in fighting. As for the action of the police commissioners in declaring Daniel Cote removed, that has all been gone over in connection with his suits against the city and against Harmon and two of the supreme court judges have ruled that Mr. Cote was never legally removed and that in consequence Harmon was never city marshal, though he continued to wear that title and pose and perform as such for seven years.

Much dissatisfaction was occasioned among Republicans by Harmon's appointment but it had the endorsement of the leaders and Harmon had the badge of police authority and the dissatisfaction was not very strongly or openly expressed except by a few.

In order to carry out the bluff of a non-partisan force, to give some color to the public to the alleged objects of the new law to remove the police from politics, it was decided to continue in office two of the old police. The two selected were Officers Morgan and Remery. The former has continued a member of the force. The latter did not find it congenial to remain under Harmon after a few weeks.

The New Regime.

There was a chance for serious trouble when the new order of things came into operation July 1st. The Republican leaders had anticipated some trouble in securing possession of the station house. The people were with the old officers and had City Marshal Cote refused to give up possession of the station house there would have been a good sized riot. In anticipation of some such trouble the Republicans had sent some more deputies here, but they would have stood a small chance against the mob as the feeling was that night.

Police Officer Charland was also a constable and after he had been evicted from the police station he made a liquor seizure, raged up and down the street, challenging Harmon to a fight and swearing he would make him fight if he found him, but Harmon was lucky enough or thoughtful enough to avoid a clash with Charland.

And though there was considerable excitement that first evening the opportunity for serious trouble passed.

For six months the new police officers served without pay. Mayor Staples refused to draw his warrant for police pay and suits had to be entered and passed upon by the courts. The decision of the courts finally gave the officers their pay, but it was drawn for the police until they got it. Their living expenses were guaranteed by Republicans, but they had rather a disagreeable time of it.

We have now seen the state police force established. There is much that might be told that has not been, but the writer does not anticipate that he will be called upon to furnish proof that the foregoing statement from the inception to the realization of the police commission scheme has been generally correct. The influence in local politics will hereafter be an important matter for consideration.

## MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

### Shrewd, Insidious and Methodical Work by Which the Two Repub- lican Police Commissioners Be- came Thoroughly Harmonized.

(Continued From January 21.)

Just before the new police commission law came into effect the board of mayor and aldermen met and reduced the regular police force from seven to four men.

The new law provided that the force should not be larger than was employed when the law took effect, and so there were only four men to have places or rather four places for the many aspirants at the outset.

This action of the mayor and aldermen was a little embarrassing at the outset, but the commissioners soon got over it and appointed as many men to the force as they wanted to. Little things like provisions of the new law never bothered the police commissioners from the start.

Developing Rum Business.

One thing which the supporters of the police commission had had in mind from the first was that with both the police force and the sheriff in control they could manipulate the rum business as it had never been manipulated before.

When the police commission came into authority, in 1893, and this is worth noting there was not what could be termed a saloon in the city. There were about two thirds as many drug stores as at present. Not one single bar room. There was liquor being sold of course. There always was and always will be but there were two reasons why the business did not amount to much. In the first place the agency was meeting all the demands (for mechanical and medical purposes) and this hurt the trade. Then between Democratic police, Republican deputy sheriffs and seven ward constables, all looking for a graft out of the rum business, it was discouraging to rum-selling enterprise of the kind we have since known.

So rum-selling prospects looked up from the time the police commissioners got the reins in their hands and yet there was another difficult task for Harmon and his lieutenants to accomplish.

Working Mr. Banks.

While it was generally believed that Commissioner Ford had such confidence in Harmon that he would not interfere with any policy he might attempt to inaugurate, Commissioner Banks had been a little long temperance man. Could he be made to wink at any collusion between the police and rum-sellers? That was a grave question. It was nobody's idea that Mr. Banks could be won over to open alliance with any scheme which involved granting rum-selling privileges.

But Mr. Banks was a mild man, advanced in years, as unfit for the position of police commissioner under such associations as henceforth surrounded him as a child would be. He had often been a worse law man than the character and lifelong record of Mr. Banks could have become to be so subservient to Harmon and all his schemes as he became to be. The explanation is this:

Mr. Banks was made the victim of an insidious scheme which had been discussed far in advance of his assuming his office as chairman of the state police force.

Keep this point in mind because others had it in their minds all along, that the chief value of the police commission as a part of the Republican political machinery was the expected development and control of the rum business. To be sure it would give Harmon a job anyhow and it would enable the Republican leaders to pay off an old score against Tarbox and his police and against the Democratic organization which had been invincible for ten years, but the real political value of the state police force was confidently expected to come through manipulation of the rum business.

Mr. Banks Loses Himself.

Probably Mr. Banks honestly regarded himself as a non-partisan when he consented to serve as police commissioner. Probably under different conditions and associations he would have filled the bill as well as anybody, but party feeling was high. It kept growing higher and before Mr. Banks knew it he was just as rabid a partisan as Mr. Ford or Mr. Staples and having cast his lot in with Harmon it was only a matter of a short time before he was completely under his control. Three months after the police commission had been established Harmon was a good deal more concerned over what Commissioner

Ford thought than about what Mr. Banks thought. Mr. Banks had completely lost himself under the influence of Harmon.

They began sowing the seed early to win Mr. Banks over from any scruples he had against the rum business. The opportunity was frequently made for this man or that to discuss the liquor question, not with him, but in his presence, that he might imbibe new ideas and lose old prejudices.

The awful iniquity of the city liquor agency was presented. It was argued how much more decent it would be to allow a little liquor sold than to have the city engaged in the wholesale and retail rum business.

It was argued in his presence that the slower the law was enforced the more drunkards there was, that men who would drink beer if they could get it would drink the vilest craze creating stuff when they could not get beer. There was system, method and perseverance employed in this line to at least allay Mr. Banks' scruples and they succeeded so well that he had no suggestions for his police when the sale of liquor became more and more open and extensive.

A Silent Partner.

So Mr. Banks, without giving his consent to an open alliance between the police and the rum-sellers, acquiesced to the point that he offered no objections, and this was the consummation of the hopes of those who had planned how he might be "worked" as far back as the time he was first suggested as a member of the police commission.

Mr. Banks has passed beyond the realm of politics within the last year. It is not The Record's belief that any dead man is entitled to any landation that he was not entitled to when alive. Hon. Eeroff H. Banks stood much higher in public opinion in A. D. 1893, than he did ten years later, in 1903. And yet The Record does not believe that he profited one dollar from all the inequities of the police department of which he was supposed to be the head. Mr. Banks was made the victim of party prejudice and insidious influences, in accordance with the general outline of a plot which had been formed when he was selected for the chairmanship of the police commission. What his inward thoughts were after the realization was upon him, as it must have been, for it is an insult to his intelligence to believe otherwise, that under the administration of the police commissioners of which he was the state appointed head, rum-sellers had jumped into times of prosperity and flagrant defiance, never dreamed of before in York county, it is not within the province of any man to tell. But it is The Record's belief that when he told the head of the W. O. T. U. of Biddeford two years ago this coming summer, in response to the petition presented to him, asking that he instruct his police to close up the local rum-shops, that he "could do nothing," he spoke the truth simply, though perhaps, and probably regretfully.

The Swallowing Process.

Hon. E. H. Banks, appointed in the first place to give character to the police commission, had unwittingly become to be the victim of shrewd politicians, to fall in with the plot they had in mind, to become to be a silent and unprofitable partner in the original police commission scheme. In fact, he had become to be swallowed up by Harmon, as he later saw the party he had served a life time swallowed up.

Harmon and Harmonism had replaced the Republican party in Biddeford. It had swallowed up men less mild, more shrewd, less aged, more pugnacious than Hon. Eeroff H. Banks. Harmonism had swallowed up the makers of the police commis-

sion, it had swallowed up his most bitter antagonists, Editor Prescott and his paper, it swallowed up Mr. Banks who had originally been the strongest opponent of Harmonism conceivable and years later as will be shown, with particular reference to the Citizens' movement and to THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN, Harmonism had swallowed up the very men whom he had debarred from political power and who owed to him only hatred and enmity, by every law of human nature and of politics. There are men who in 1894 were willing to make oath that they would yield up every hope of regained political power, almost of every ambition of a lifetime, almost of life itself, to down Charles B. Harmon, who are today the most abject sucklings in his political nest.

Lots More to Come.

If this assertion is not made good in the future, by facts which cannot be denied, then cast this whole review of Biddeford's political history aside as a fable and a fake. The Record finds that this political review is receiving unexpected attention. So great is the manifest interest that whereas it was expected to have its close on January 23 with ten more years of Biddeford's political history to cover. While the former instalments may seem to have been an arraignment of Republican politics and policies, the Democrats will come in for their share of frank attention, later.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## Campaign of 1894—Two Remarkable Personal Triumphs—The New City Marshal Fumigates Democratic Caucus.

Jan. 23-1904

(Continued From January 22.)

It should not be understood that any sudden development of the ram business followed the inauguration of the police commission immediately. The Republican leaders were too foxy for that and Harmon was too cautious. There was simply a gradual loosening up, the opening of a few new places and nothing of the really wide open character of the business as we have known later.

By winter, there was considerable going on and there was general talk that the rum-sellers had got to stand an assessment to help the Republicans carry the city, for it was early known that they were to make a fight and that the state police were expected to prove of great assistance.

There had always been talk about ram money being contributed to help one party or the other, but it is worthy of note that never until the inauguration of the non-partisan state police force with Harmon at the head had any talk of general assessment of rum-sellers been heard.

### The Campaign of 1894.

By the time caucuses had been called the Republican leaders had got things pretty well shaped for a fight except in one important detail: they had not been able to hit upon a satisfactory candidate. It was not until almost the eve of caucus that ex-Judge Charles S. Hamilton was mentioned as the proper candidate.

Of course there was strong protest and grave misgivings on the part of the leaders and Harmon was among those who protested earnestly against Judge Hamilton, at the outset. But the suggestion of his name went like wild fire, particularly among the young men. There was genuine enthusiasm and the party leaders could not check it.

Judge Hamilton had already agreed to present Geo. W. Carter's name to the caucus and he did so. His own name was immediately presented by Daniel A. Doyle and the name of R. H. Ingersoll was also presented by Capt. Amos Goodwin. The caucus was a big one and the vote was by ballot resulting as follows: R. H. Ingersoll, 87, Geo. W. Carter, 125, Charles S. Hamilton, 329.

From the nomination the Hamilton boom was on and it held up.

The Democrats did not go into the fight with the old spirit. William A. Roberts had long held political ambitions but the old Democratic leaders did not look upon him with favor. Mr. Roberts was not to be discouraged, however, and when there became to be some doubt about who should be the Democratic candidate he got a move on and worked himself into a position where there was nothing else to do than nominate him. Those were the days when Mr. Roberts had money to burn and was willing to burn it and there was an excellent opportunity to burn money in Biddeford politics then. This was an important qualification that Mr. Roberts possessed.

It was not for lack of money but for lack of management that Mr. Roberts was defeated, as he was, for the Republicans carried the city after a most exciting campaign, for Judge Hamilton made a lively fight. He was elected the first Republican mayor in eleven years by a 200 majority and had the city government with him. It was claimed by Mr. Roberts' friends that the old Democratic leaders threw him down and did not try to elect him. It is probably true that many of the old war horses did not feel like

shedding tears over his defeat, but the real reason that he got no more support was that he insisted upon managing his own campaign according to his own ideas. He had an exaggerated idea of his own personal popularity and relied upon that rather than upon ordinary campaign methods to elect him.

However, the tide had turned. A good many voters wanted a change after eleven years under practically the same administration and it is doubtful if any candidate could have beaten Judge Hamilton that year, as the feeling was. Certainly not without a very big boodle.

### Two Personal Triumphs.

Biddeford politics had within a year shown two remarkable personal triumphs, probably as remarkable as the entire history of Maine politics could show.

Charles S. Hamilton, impeached before the whole state and removed from the judgeship of the municipal court in 1891 and three years later elected mayor of the city, the first Republican to be elected in eleven years.

Charles B. Harmon, Democratic United States marshal in 1889, hated by every Republican in the city, almost, three years later Republican city marshal, and recognized Republican leader of the city.

Where can you find parallels for these two instances?

And this suggests something which may appeal to the superstitious: Eleven years proved the limit for Biddeford Democrats.

Harmon's eleventh year will be up next summer.

### The Sins Of War.

It has been stated that the Republicans were well fixed for boodle in this, their first winning campaign. It is a natural query where they got it. They had made several unsuccessful boodle fights for which the contributors had not recovered. They had not offices to assess, except the police, and they had not received their first payment until that winter. There are ordinary and extraordinary methods of raising campaign boodles. Note to be taken care of by the officeholders is an ordinary method. Note to be taken care of by stipulated assessments upon rum-sellers is, or was then, an extraordinary method. The money, that is, the bulk of it, for the first Hamilton campaign was raised by this extraordinary method. It was an innovation made possible by the police commission. The real birth of what afterward was known as the Biddeford rum syndicate was in the closing days of the campaign of 1894 when the boodle was raised. Whose scheme it was might be told, but perhaps it is unnecessary to state.

In after years no notes were necessary for the Republican collector made his rounds regularly and collected the cold cash from the industries which were protected by the state police.

### The Agency Closed.

The new Republican city government, its motto, "Let Us Be Honest," will be recalled, was spared one task, that was the closing of the city liquor agency. No more did the Journal have acute hysterics. No more did Harmon lie awake nights and shed tears over this wicked institution for "medicinal and mechanical purposes." Harmon had kept one of his police watching the agency for weeks from a window across the way. The testimony of the officer was a revelation of the great demand for alcoholic liquor for mechanical and medicinal purposes. Harmon grieved but the agency kept doing business at the old stand until the closing days of the last Democratic administration when the mayor and board of aldermen voted to close the administration. If they hadn't done this, may be the Republicans would have continued it. They did not have the nerve to reopen it after it had been closed. It would have broken the hearts of Harmon and Editor Prescott.

### Harmon's Fumigation.

One incident of the campaign of 1894 has been passed over which should not be. It was Harmon's famous fumigation act, forgotten by some, no doubt, who will readily recall it.

Harmon had been the head of the NON-PARTISAN police force, forbidden by the law which created it from

taking active part in politics, just about six months when the Democratic caucus which nominated W. A. Roberts was held.

Harmon conceived of a bright idea and proceeded to carry it out. He threw open the doors of the old police station to the back stairway which led to the upper part of the building and started in fumigating the police station by burning brimstone. The fumes of the brimstone arose into the hall so strong that it was almost impossible to breathe but the windows were thrown open and the caucus managed to get through its business. Harmon's idea that night as he heard of the coughing, strangling Democrats at the caucus was extreme. It was the Democratic caucus and not the jail cells that Harmon had in mind when he started his fumigation.

Now consider this performance of the non-partisan police force, six months in office.

And then remember that this same man who burned three shovelfuls of brimstone to break up a Democratic caucus in 1894, nine years later prosecutes Frank Cote for burning red fire in front of his own place of business after midnight Fourth of July morning.

### The New Administration.

It is hardly necessary to review the Hamilton administration of 1894. Having been out off from official plums for eleven long years it was a hungry crowd that followed the new administration with hopes of landing some office and there were the usual sharp contests before the slate was finally made. In general, the Kendall faction got a very small end of it. The first year of the Hamilton administration was perhaps expensive but it was progressive and there were a few orders passed by the city council without full discussion that year and any year in Biddeford's history. The common council out more ice in the discussions that year than it ever did before or since.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## Constables Interfere With State Police and Are Abolished--Harmonism Grows and the York Club Decays.

(Continued From January 23.)

The police commission had been established about a year and that department was not bothering itself much about the new Republican administration. This first year of state police regime had seen considerable development in the rum business, more particularly in the beer business. It had extended from drug stores and saloons and restaurants to the grocery stores. The police rum syndicate was being nursed through a very healthy infancy, but there was one obstacle.

### Trouble With Constables.

There were still Democratic constables in the city and they intruded themselves upon Republican plans. They had all the powers of a sheriff or city marshal, and were therefore in a position to blackmail rum-sellers just as successfully as the sheriffs or police. They did it, too, some of them, and even the Republican constables knew a good thing when they saw it and these also mixed in, with the result that the rum-sellers did not receive the protection they were paying for.

These constables were free lances. Their plunder was for their own benefit. They were beholden to nobody but the voters of their wards who nominated and elected them. They were about the biggest guns in the city and made no secret of their blackmail. Constables had jurisdiction all over the county and Biddford becoming known to be good picking these out of town constables came and got their bit. Not all of the constables were grafters, or blackmailers, however.

### Early Clashes.

In order to make one story of this constable matter some important early occurrences have been passed over.

In the fall of 1898, soon after the police commission came into power, the first clash between the police and constables occurred.

William P. Yates was manager of the Opera house and Harmon assigned police to do duty at hall shows. Mr. Yates had no use for the state police and put Democratic constables on duty at the hall and refused to let the police in the show.

The result was that Harmon took a hand and when the smoke of battle cleared away the Democratic constables were locked up in jail.

This was an early illustration of the way Harmon proposed to run things. He was greater than the law. Of course everybody knows that now but the people were not quite prepared for a sudden change from the old law to the new law. They came around to it finally. Today nobody enquires what the law says or authorizes. All that is necessary to know is what Harmon says or authorizes.

But the imprisoned constables held the new czar an argument in this matter. The case was tried out in the municipal court and Judge Cram decided that Harmon had no business sending policemen into the hall unless requested to or unless some disturbance made it necessary, and so it continued as far as City hall was concerned, that constables, not police, were on duty.

There were various minor clashes between police and constable authority.

When it came to the next election, the Democrats attempted to offset the activity and intimidation of the non-partisan police by getting as many constables as they could to be around the polls.

### Harmon Kicked Out.

Late in the afternoon Harmon went down into ward 4 and ran into trouble. They were having a pretty hot election there but there had been no serious trouble until the head of the non-partisan police force arrived. Under the spirit and letter of the police commission law he had no business in any ward room unless to preserve order. The warden, who had full charge of the polling place, had not asked for police assistance, but Harmon jumped into the ward room like a bull and began to give orders. He did not get very far, however. A black-jack, swung hard, fell upon his head and he went down in the floor with bleeding head, but friendly hands picked him up and possibly saved him from being kicked to death, such was the temper of the crowd and the hatred of Harmon.

Constable A. A. Doloff of Kenne-

becoquet was convicted of the assault, in the municipal court and bound over, but the case was settled somehow and never came before the supreme court.

### Raids By Constables.

The rum business had developed so greatly that the Democratic leaders sent up to Sanford and got Ed H. Emery and another constable named Tibbetts to come down here and they made half a dozen raids and seized a lot of liquor. There was no graft or bluff in connection with these raids. They were the real thing. The Sanford constables religiously searched every place they were directed to, for being strangers they of course had to have directions. These raids aroused high indignation with the Republican leaders and in non-partisan police circles.

### Constables Abolished.

The result of these different troubles in which the constables figured suggested to the Republican leaders more special legislation. There was no way to fully realize rum syndicate plans until these troublesome constables were disposed of. And so down to Augusta so the Republican leaders once more with petitions and lawyers and witnesses to tell the legislature what a trouble and disgrace the old time office of constable was bringing upon Biddford and praying that it be abolished. And it was not alone for Biddford that they wanted the office abolished; they wanted the office in Saco abolished as well and the jurisdiction of other out of town constables limited by law to their own towns.

Opposition was put up at the hearing but the York delegation again did the bidding of the Biddford bosses and the bill passed. The city marshals by virtue of their office had the powers of constables and this provision was not disturbed, so that the city marshals of Biddford and Saco were the only constables left enjoying the full jurisdiction of the old office or with authority to meddle in Biddford.

Harmon was a constable, and of course there were no fears then that Republican Saco would make any trouble.

### The Real Object.

It cost considerable to remove the constables, but the money was forthcoming. The costs were assessed upon the rum-sellers and gladly enough they contributed to get rid of these officers for all time who had cost them so much money and trouble.

Whatever disgraceful ones had been made of the powers of constables, and there is no denying that the office had been disgraced and degraded, there was no motive of purity or reform back of this movement to abolish the office. The only object of the move was to put the control of the rum business absolutely and entirely in the hands of the Republican sheriff and state appointed police.

With the constables removed there was no fear of any conflict between these two departments. The nearest approach to a conflict that there has been in the ten years that have passed has been between Harmon and Sheriff Fogg and the latter has apparently finally been driven to play into the Harmon policy of open shops for political boodle.

### The Results.

With the removal of the constables came a great development in the rum business. New places opened up, wholesale as well as retail. There was little pretence by the sheriffs of enforcing the law and none whatever by the two police departments.

Not a seizure was made by the police unless to drive some Democratic rum-seller to make terms with the Republican bosses. Police Commissioners Banks and Ford were as acquiescent in this policy as any two men who could have been found. Harmon had become to be the whole police commission.

It was amazing how rapidly men who had formerly been active Democratic workers became to be Republican workers. Their reward was a rum-selling privilege. It seemed as though these privileges were reserved for former Democrats. It was not necessary to buy Republicans with them. In nine cases out of ten when a new saloon was opened it was some former Democrat who owned it but henceforward he was to be reckoned

### an active Republican.

### York Club's Decline.

The old York club contingent which had for years represented the Republican leadership became of little consequence politically. They had yielded their leadership to Harmon and his new recruits. The police station and the saloons became the breeding places of political schemes and plans. The York club was scarcely visited. It was of no consequence whatever politically and of very little socially. The new Republican party that had been created by the police commission had little use for a staid and respectable institution like the York club.

The development of the rum syndicate and the decadence of the York club, the growth of Harmonism and shrinkage of old time Republicanism kept pace from the inauguration of the police commission.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Campaign of 1895--Candidate for Mayor Thrown Out of Republican Caucus and Jailed by Non-Partisan City Marshal.

(Continued From January 25.)

An event which Biddleford has had cause enough to remember occurred in the first year of the Hamilton administration at the very close of the old year. While it was not a political event, it was an event which had a good deal of influence on politics. This was the burning of the City building which entailed such an expense to taxpayers and gave such an opportunity for graft and jobs that it may be said to have been the cause of the Citizens' movement.

Remove this disaster and its effects from Hamilton's administrations and they would compare favorably with other administrations. The money spent on the Westbrook job left something to show for it, even if it was claimed that it cost a good deal more than it should have. The Hamilton administrations were progressive, if not economical. Costly as they were the city has more to show for those two years than for any other ten years that can be named. The Westbrook job, the purchase of a road roller and the first work of macadamizing streets, the purchase of Clifton park, better equipment in the fire department, these are some of the excuses the Hamilton administration can point to for its alleged extravagance. Put these things along side the small-boys steal of last year and who will say that the Hamilton administrations do not compare very favorably with the recent administrations of economy and reform?

And this also is to be taken into consideration. The Republican administration came to upon the cry of corruption and graft that the Democrats had enjoyed. The Citizens' party came into power on the cry of corruption and graft that the Republicans had enjoyed. The Hamilton administration employed an expert to discover Democratic dishonesty and claimed to have discovered it. The Citizens employed a committee to discover the dishonesty of the Hamilton administration, and claimed to have done it. Nobody was ever called to account and here is the peculiar thing.

Almost every man who was accused of graft or crookedness under either the Democratic or Hamilton administration are members of the Citizens' reform party today and those who were accused of profiting most at the expense of the taxpayers are the leading spirits of the present "reform" movement. Isn't it true?

### The Campaign of 1895.

A good deal of dissatisfaction had arisen in the first year of the Hamilton administration but the Democrats seemed disinclined to take advantage. One reason probably was that it was considered that the city building elephant would swamp any party. Still some of the Democrats wanted to make a fight and at the caucus W. A. Roberts who would have liked another try, was beaten out of sight by Proctor Yates. It looked like a fight but Mr. Yates pulled out and John B. Lowell was substituted. No real fight was made and the Hamilton administration was reinstated for another year.

The writer has high authority for the statement that in anticipation of a fight the Republican leaders had raised by one process and another the sum of \$3,000 for the election of 1895. The non-partisan head of Biddleford's non-partisan police force was commonly credited

with having done most of the figuring which yielded this hood.

The entire money expense of the Democratic campaign was \$27.50.

It is certainly not to be wondered at that the Republican administration was "vindicated."

### The Arrest of Doyle

The campaign of 1895 did not pass without Harmon distinguishing himself. Of all the breaks he ever had made, and there are lots of them, his arrest of Daniel Doyle, Republican member of the legislature which had just passed Harmon's bill abolishing the caucuses through, in a Republican caucus in which Doyle was a legitimate candidate for mayor.

Match this, if you can. The year and a half old head of the non-partisan police force arresting a member of the legislature and candidate for the nomination of mayor in a Republican caucus.

Doyle had had a falling out with the Hamilton administration and had gathered a strong following to try to capture the nomination himself. He and Harmon did not hit each other and Harmon took his police to the hall, (the caucus was held in the Infantry hall) and stationed himself at the door where he began to shut off men from entering the hall who, he suspected might vote for Doyle. It was a big caucus and an exciting one. It was "tail tab" night with the usual din outside. Doyle's following was much larger than had been expected.

It was further rumored that the Keeley club, then in its strength, was coming down in a body to vote for Doyle.

The non-partisan police chief, forbidden by law to meddle in politics, took it upon himself to run the caucus and keep Doyle voters from even entering the hall. He had two officers with him and it was a formidable array of brass buttons which was encountered at the head of the stairs.

It was the star not of the non-partisan police force. Harmon shut out some of Doyle's friends and Doyle remonstrated. Doyle was about half as big as Harmon but he was stuffy and he made some uncomplimentary remarks about the state police force.

In a jiffy the trio of non-partisan police had clutched Doyle and his feet did not touch the stairs until he reached the landing. The police station was temporarily in the old Bryant building and there Representative to the Legislature and Candidate for Mayor Doyle was flung into a cell while the caucus proceeded to run through the nomination of Doyle's opponent.

### When Harmon Sweated.

Lawyer Charles T. Read hurried to Saco and found Judge Burbank from whom he obtained a writ of habeas corpus and Deputy Sheriff Stackpole served this writ upon Harmon before the caucus was over. Had he obeyed the writ, Doyle would have been at liberty within half an hour, but over in Judge Burbank's office they waited and waited but Harmon did not show up with his prisoner. Judge Burbank got his ire up and issued a capias for the arrest of Harmon for contempt of court and a little later Deputy Stackpole came over with Harmon, and with Harmon was Doyle. Harmon ate some very humble pie that night, which was served up by Judge Burbank. However, as the recent Leavelle incident shows, he did not acquire a lasting respect for the habeas corpus.

Doyle was later put before the court and fined \$5 and costs on the charge of disturbing a public assemblage. He appealed and the case never came up in high court. But Doyle turned around and brought suit for false arrest against Harmon. The case was continued around to the next January and in the meantime pressure had been brought upon Doyle to drop the suit. He did not do so however, until the day set for the trial and then he received \$50 and costs, amounting to nearly \$70.

The court records show therefore that before this non-partisan head of the non-partisan police force had been in office two years he had been arrested upon a capias for contempt of court and sued civilly for arresting a mayoralty candidate and representative to the legislature at a Republican caucus.

### Removal Demanded.

The arrest of Doyle, and other inci-

dents of Harmon's career caused a good deal of feeling and a public meeting was held which resulted in a formal demand, supported by charges for the removal of Harmon. This demand was made upon Police Commissioner Banks who said he would give attention to the matter, but that was the last ever heard of it.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The High Tax Rate and the Great Development of the Rum Syndicate the Chief Issues of 1895.

(Continued From January 26.)

The Record was born almost with the second Hamilton administration. The municipal year had but just begun when the first issue of The Record appeared.

The Record started in upon the best of terms with the Hamilton administration and all connected with it. Before the year was over it had criticized the administration a good deal and finally used whatever influence it may have had in defeating that administration. Yet throughout that year and in the years succeeding, The Record continued upon the most friendly terms with those connected with the administration of 1895 and up to the day of its death it reckoned among its friends no better one than ex-Mayor Charles S. Hamilton.

What has this to do with Biddeford's political history?

Not much perhaps, but it has a bearing on showing the difference there is between men.

In the very earliest days of The Record a friend asked the writer—"How long do you expect to keep on good terms with Harmon?" The reply was that The Record anticipated having no trouble with Harmon, yet within three months Harmon was hardly on speaking terms with anybody connected with The Record and had even told a storekeeper with whom he traded that if he ever saw The Record in his store again he would quit trading with him.

At that time The Record's criticisms, if there had been any, had been of the mildest character. Harmon had not been personally offended. His grievance against The Record simply was that The Record had attacked the rapidly growing rum syndicate which was being nurtured by the police and the sheriffs.

At different periods since The Record and Harmon have been upon varying terms of relationship, some times quite friendly, most of the time otherwise. Harmon, like Jeff Davis and the South, only asks to be let alone. When he is, he is amiable. When he is crossed in any way, scheme or purpose, it is different. Harmon has proved so entirely lacking in the sense of discrimination between personal criticism and official criticism that The Record long ago gave up trying to discriminate between the individual and the official.

These few words of the nature of a personal explanation may not be out of place in this review of Biddeford's political history of the years which yet remain to be covered, during which both Harmon and The Record have been more or less conspicuous.

### The 1895 Administration.

The second administration of Mayor Hamilton was rather a stormy one. It was not all harmonious in the two boards of the city council. The rebuilding of City building was task enough alone for an administration. It was the occasion of lots of disagreement and Mayor Hamilton, being chairman of the building committee, had to bear the greater burden of the criticism.

### Growth of The Syndicate

After the second administration of the Republicans began the development of the liquor business was very rapid. There was no longer any pretense of enforcement, either by police or by county officials. The Bangor plan had been adopted. Those in the liquor business fully understood the plan. They were to pay fines twice a year and to contribute for campaign purposes when called upon and besides this they were to pay a regular monthly sum to the syndicate collector for a sort of sinking fund. The rum syndicate was becoming popular in all business matters then and the rum syndicate was so named because it was a sort of close corporation. The permits had to be obtained from the authorities and having been obtained the protection was assured. It really was not the Bangor plan, except so far as the county attorney was concerned. It was otherwise the Harmon plan, a development of the Bangor plan.

### The Good Old Days.

The 25 or 30 saloons, which were running in addition to the drug stores and two wholesale establishments were not mere holes in the wall, but fitted up with a view to permanency, some of them quite elegant with their fine bars, plate glass and other furnishings. There were no screens and

no secrecy, either in dispensing the thirst quenching liquids or in renewing the supply from the freight yards. The only disturbances were when one seller kicked because another sold bigger "schoolers" of beer or cut the price of whiskey. These differences were quickly settled by police authority, as were the hours of keeping open and the issuing of special permits to do Sunday business.

The description of conditions in 1895, after all, is but a description of conditions that existed up to the fall of 1902. Seven good years of it the syndicate had and it served its creator and master as faithfully those seven years as did Jacob of old for his wife. There were a few more places in 1903 than in 1895, but that was about all the difference.

And while we are on the subject, the description applied to condition in 1885 would not be far out of the way if applied to the present conditions.

A former deputy sheriff looked around a little yesterday to see how severe the Fog enforcement in Biddeford was. He tells The Record that he visited eight bar rooms and three drug stores and got anything he asked for. He did not try any more.

The arrogance and boldness of the rum syndicate grew with its business. Standing solid with the police and sheriff, so the syndicate did, it had nothing for defiance for those who protested or criticized. The rum sellers got the idea into their heads that they were the whole thing, politically, not only in Biddeford but in the whole county. So it seemed.

### The Enforcement League.

But the revolt came just the same. An agitation arose which resulted in the organization of the York County Enforcement League. The ministers, at least most of them, preached enforcement from their pulpits, a big union enforcement meeting was held at the Methodist church at which the police commissioners, Harmon and the Sheriff and his deputies were severely scored, but the syndicate and the officials continued defiant and the protests of the enforcement people were only answered at. Then John P. Kelley, the head of the enforcement League, did some investigating and told the people all about what he had found at a big mass meeting held in Saco City hall one Sunday afternoon, naming the places and their proprietors who were violating the law openly.

That September term 36 indictments, all but about a dozen for liquor selling, were returned. They were settled and pigeonholed in the usual way. This was the term when they were supposed to pay fines under the Bangor plan.

### Syndicate Undisturbed.

The enforcement agitation was kept up during the fall but at the January term, when it was not the turn of the rum sellers to pay fines under the Bangor plan, only 10 liquor indictments were returned.

That is better by ten than the last grand jury did, in this strict era of enforcement, as you think of it.

So the rum syndicate, born with the police commission, flourished defiantly. The courts, the law, the ministers or the temperance people had no terrors for the rum sellers.

From first to last, in the past as in the present, there has only been one person or power that has had any terrors for Biddeford rum sellers.

### Harmon.

His rule over them has been as absolute as it has been over the police commissioners, sheriffs and county attorneys, they all knuckle to Harmon in the end. Thompson or Fog, Perkins or Emmons, or Matthews or Emery, Banks or Hutchins, Ford or Tarr, they all look alike to Harmon, as do all the mayors. Harmon holds up the rum sellers and the rum sellers hold up Harmon. So it was ten years ago. So it is today.

### The Two Issues.

There were two chief issues in 1895, this rum syndicate question and the tax rate.

The tax rate had been raised from necessity on account of the loss of City building from 31 mills to 28 mills. At the rate of progress made upon City building in spending money it looked as though the rate might have to be raised again. Property holders were really alarmed. It was claimed that Biddeford's debt had

piled up, notwithstanding the enormous tax rate, until the city debt exceeded by many thousands the statutory limitation. What to do was the question. Another campaign was at hand. It would seem that the Democrats would be obliged to win.

It was such a bad case that many of the Democrats were opposed to tackling the job of clearing it up. But that was not the chief reason why the Democrats were unwilling to make a fight.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Early Campaign of 1895--What Led Up to the Citizens' Move- ment--The Original Principles of That Movement.

Jan. 25, 1910

(Continued from January 27)

As stated, while the condition of city affairs was not at all inviting and certain to be a burden to any incoming administration, this was not the real reason for the Democrats being disinclined to make a fight for the control of the city.

In spite of the conditions, in spite of the widespread dissatisfaction and alarm of property holders and taxpayers, in spite of the split that had arisen in the Republican party after two brief years of power, the Democrats did not believe that it would be possible for them to carry the city and this is why:

### The Real Reason.

They believed that Harmon with the great power of his rum syndicate which he had built up and of which he was the absolute master, with the aid of what Republicans could be relied upon to support the party ticket through thick and thin, could beat out any ticket the Democrats could name. If it came to a question of a money fight, the tables were turned from two years before. The Republicans had all the sources of raising money, the Democrats had none, unless they went down into their own pockets.

It was rationally figured out that 80 of the saloons, with proprietors, clerks, bartenders, truckmen and hangers-on controlled an average of ten votes each. Here were 800 votes to start with, with ample boodle to buy up the floaters, almost enough to insure election if everybody else in the city should vote the Democratic ticket.

This is why the Democrats were not inclined to make a fight. Dissatisfied as many Republicans were, few of them were worked up to the point that they would have voted any ticket labeled Democratic.

### A Republican Split.

The Hamilton administration had no idea of giving up the municipal reins to the dissatisfied Republicans who had criticized the administration. So the latter had but one recourse. That was to try and beat the Hamilton people out in caucus. It was one of the biggest, if not the biggest caucus ever held in the city. K. W. Sutherland was the candidate against Mayor Hamilton and had following enough to have captured an ordinary caucus, but the Hamilton people were in the middle and in anticipation of a fight had mustered the biggest force they could. There was so much feeling before the caucus that many looked for a riot, but there was nothing to come of it, for the Hamilton people were too confident of winning out. That was what they did. Hamilton received 638 votes and Sutherland 303. It was claimed that men from Saco, Goodwins Mills, Waterboro and Kennebunkport voted in the caucus for Hamilton, but even so, he had hundreds of votes to spare.

### The Citizens' Movement.

There had been considerable talk, first and last about a non-partisan combination against the Republicans. The Republicans who were dissatisfied with the administration gave very little encouragement to this scheme until after they had been defeated in caucus.

The result of the re-nomination of Mayor Hamilton was that it spurred all the opposition to action. The vague talk about a non-partisan movement rapidly crystallized into definite action. The very morning after the

Republican caucus the decision was reached by prominent men in both parties to run a Citizens' ticket. It did not take long to make a choice of candidates for mayor. It fell upon Carlos Heard and a petition was circulated which, headed by Robert McArthur and Hon. John M. Goodwin soon had the signatures of upward of 100 of the leading citizens of Biddeford of both parties, asking Mr. Heard to stand as candidate and be consented. This petition was further circulated and many more names secured until finally it was without doubt the strongest petition ever secured in this city.

### An Honest Movement.

The Citizens' movement at its inception was as honest a political movement as was ever organized. The men who led off in it were honest. They were making the move in self protection, as they believed, it had been too sudden and too spontaneous to admit of any scheming or any thought of a more selfish end than to save the city from bankruptcy and save property from being eaten up by taxes.

There had not even been time to definitely formulate a platform. Yet the platform was understood by all. That platform could have been expressed in four words, as it was understood by those who gave their support—Economy, Honesty, Capability, Nonpartisanship.

However, the Citizens' movement may have failed, however speedily it began to fail, it was an honest movement at the start.

But what a fall there has been! To surround the candidate for mayor with the ablest men who could be selected, divided as to party as evenly as possible, was the promise given Mr. Heard. That promise was kept. It was a clean, able ticket that the Citizens presented after it was fairly made up.

### "Down With the Boodlers."

The Citizens did not propose to make a boodle campaign of it. Boodle campaigns do not go well with municipal economy, for the municipality in the end has to make up for the boodle spent. The Citizens had no means of raising a corruption fund. They determined at the outset that their opponents should not buy their election. They hoped by the result of that election to eliminate boodle as a political factor for years to come.

Again, what a fall! Two years later this same Citizens' party made the greatest boodle fight in the city's history, except in the election of 1893. But for that campaign of 1895 the watchword was "Down with the Boodlers." It proved a good one.

### Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

The Journal promptly set its stamp of disapproval on this Citizens' movement. There was no place in politics for non-partisan movements, it declared. It was a Republican paper and would never countenance anything but unadulterated Republicanism. If reforms were called for, the reforms should be within the Republican party. The Democrats who had looted Biddeford for eleven years could not be trusted again with any voice in the management of its affairs. Although not an ardent champion of the Hamilton administration, the Journal maintained that the alleged bankrupt condition of the city was more attributable to the eleven years of Democratic administration than to the two years of Republican administration.

"A wolf in sheep's clothing," was the Journal's characterization of the Citizens' movement, at the outset, and it so maintained.

In attitude was the same then as it has been all along toward the citizens' movement in Saco, as it was toward the independent movement in the county last fall.

W. A. Roberts bought the Times about the time the campaign opened and this paper was an ardent champion of the Hamilton administration and had only ridicule for the Citizens' movement.

The Record supported the Citizens' movement to the best of its ability and has no regrets. It would support another movement equally honest, whatever the label might be, in fact, it is supporting one at present, the Horgan movement, in which are enlisted many of the most robust, most energetic and most successful men who were the backbone of the Citizens' movement.

movement when it started. The Hamilton Republicans decided the Citizens' movement and pretended to have no fear of its success. They did not believe that any number of Republicans would vote the Citizens' ticket.

# Biddeford Record Jan. 25, 1910 MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## The Citizens Win the Election of 1896--The Police for Once Kept Hands Off and the Reason Why.

(Continued from January 27)

In just one election since the police commission was established, municipal, state or national, have the police maintained the attitude the law provides they shall maintain in politics.

That was in the election of 1896. The police kept hands off and took no active part. The reason they did not was because Harmon took no active part. It is only by Harmon's orders that they take an active part in any election. There were at least two reasons why Harmon did not take an active part in that election. One reason was that his own party and his own supporters were divided. With such Republicans as had come out in favor of the Citizens' movement, it would have been very poor judgment for Harmon to have made himself radically hostile to that movement. The citizen Republicans would not have stood for it. On the other hand, with the Prescott-Moore element unfavorable to the Citizens' movement it would have been equally poor policy for Harmon to have been active, even if so disposed, in behalf of the Citizens' ticket. So he kept out of it and kept his police out of it.

### Another Reason.

There is no doubt that at heart Harmon wanted to see the Citizens' movement win. Probably he was not sagacious enough to foresee how it would result, any more than anybody else could at that time have foreseen that the movement was to work out to the advantage of Harmon's scheme of dictatorship. But it did. Under straight party administrations Harmon could not have lasted as long as he has. That is apparent enough from the number of men he has driven out from their old party. The Citizens' movement has proven most useful to him for he has been able to make good these Republican losses by Democrats, not only in municipal elections but in state and county elections.

In the last year of the Hamilton administration Harmon and Mayor Hamilton had had numerous disagreements. Whatever else may be said of Mayor Hamilton it cannot be denied that he was a man of a good deal of spirit and pluck and while, in his office as police commissioner, he had not attempted to interfere in Harmon's pet schemes, he had put his foot down firmly on several occasions against Harmon's dictations as to how the mayor's office should be run. These disagreements had become to be more and more frequent and some of the little between these two officials had been very sharp. They were not at all on friendly terms when the campaign of 1896 opened and Harmon was believed to have worked against the re-nomination of Mayor Hamilton secretly, if not openly. After Mayor Hamilton had carried the caucus it left Harmon in rather

### A Delicate Position.

He could foresee a lot of trouble if Mayor Hamilton was re-elected. Probably he could not exactly see his own way clear if the Citizens' movement was successful, as active in that movement were some of his old Democratic enemies, men who had every reason to hate him. The high sounding principles of the Citizens' party would not have appealed very strongly to Harmon. The watchword, "Down With the Boodlers," must have seemed childish to him, for the writer remembers that election morning he spoke with Harmon in the room then being used for a court room in Union block, about the prospects.

"Have they got any money?" was Harmon's query, meaning the Citizens. Upon being told that they claimed that they were not going to use any money themselves or allow the other side to use any Harmon expressed grave doubts about the Citizens' being able to win.

Successful politics without money

is a proposition that is beyond Harmon's comprehension.

### Harmon Unplaced.

It has been claimed that there was an understanding arrived at between Candidate Heard and Harmon before that first election and that the substance of the understanding was that if Harmon kept his hands off in that election none of his schemes would be interfered with. It is more reasonable to believe that that understanding was arrived at later, when the Citizens began to play politics and entrench themselves for further elections. It is the writer's belief that up to election morning Harmon had not been definitely placed. His attitude toward Mayor Hamilton was generally known and it was further believed that he had too much at stake, even if he had been so disposed, to make a fight after his usual methods against the Citizens. The Citizens were not in a temper then to brook any such interference. Prominent Citizen Republicans who had talked with Harmon brought back the assurance that he would be neutral in the election and that was as near as they came to having this powerful political factor placed when election day came. He did remain neutral, for the first, last and only time in a local election and if he did not help the Citizens he at least did not work against them.

### The Election.

There was no bluff about the threats of the Citizens to prevent an auction sale of votes. Big committees of aggressive men were at every polling place and they shadowed everybody whom they suspected of trying to buy votes. The Republicans had money but they only had a chance to use a very little of it. In wards 3 and 7 the dogging of the bootlers was particularly effective. In 3 and 4 there were more votes bought. But it was the Citizens' day. Victory was in the air from the first hour of the voting and after the noon vote all doubts were over. The Republican tallies were entirely misleading as many voted the Citizens' ticket who were checked Republicans. The high taxes had hit the farmer vote hard and it was almost solid for the Citizens. The corporation vote, at least the Peppercell and Lagoon, was also strongly Citizens.

Mayor Heard was elected by 313 majority with five wards behind him, wards 3 and 4 being carried by the Republicans. Street Commissioner Campbell being the Republican alderman elect from ward 3 and Joseph Chamberland from ward 4. Alderman Campbell was a most caustic critic of the Citizens' movement and a perpetual thorn in the flesh of the administration in the first year, but like most of the original opponents of the Citizens' movement he is now one of its leading exponents. As a general proposition, the men who fought the Citizens' movement hardest have become to be the bone and sinew of the present party, while those who fought hardest for it that first campaign have become to be exiles. But the changes in the membership of the Citizens' party have been so marked that the change in the principles of the movement.

### Do You Recognize It?

The result of election occasioned general rejoicing. Congratulations were lavished. Biddeford was henceforth to have non-partisan rule. Honesty and business in place of graft and extravagance. The era of boodle in Biddeford politics had been ended. Never again would the wholesale auction sale. All the principles were to be lived up to rigidly, etc., etc.

That was how it was talked after the 1896 election. Do you recognize this party of lofty principles and pure politics in the party that two years later fought the Stone-Kendall campaign, that a year ago spent thousands to gain a majority of 27 over Cora Allen Herigan, that relies this year, and makes no secret of it, upon overcoming the wholesale revolt against the Citizen-Harmon-Industrial League combination.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

Jan 30-1904

## The First Citizens' Administration-- The All-the-Year-Arounds and Half and Halfs and Some Hot Caucuses.

(Continued From January 29.)

For all the Journal and Times had opposed the Citizens' party so strongly, they had a lot of advice to give after the election was over. They had the nerve to suggest that a number of the old city officials should be retained, but the demand of those who had supported the Citizens' movement was for a clean sweep. The only exception made was in the case of City Treasurer Moody who was reelected.

The new administration got through the most troublesome part, that of filling the offices, very well and there was not much dissatisfaction expressed. The city council got down to business early and the members of the upper board seemed disposed to carry out all pledges in the way of an economical, businesslike administration. Alderman Campbell made it interesting at all of the meetings and seemed bent upon embarrassing the other members of the board all he could.

Who, who remembers Alderman Campbell as he was that first year, would ever have supposed that he would have come around to be one of the leaders in the Citizens' party and be given the most important office under the administration?

### Early Symptoms.

But the administration had not become to be very old before there were symptoms of strife. These grew so marked later on that Alderman Murphy was constrained to introduce an order providing that none of the municipal officers should furnish any supplies to the city. That order was not popular and it did not pass. A number of members of the board were doing pretty well out of the city's trade, particularly Mayor Heard and they did not care to see a good thing. There were some very sharp controversies during the first year of the Citizens' administration and no doubt upon several occasions Mayor Heard felt that he was earning his salary. The administration made a good showing financially, in its first year and out of a big slice of the city debt. There was no reason why it should not have been able to do with the same tax rate that Mayor Hamilton had had and every cooper turned over and looked at before it was spent. A closing exhibition of the desire for graft was when Alderman Gooch voted himself a liberal salary for services on the committee on accounts after all the pedges and provisions that a member of the city council should receive any money for his services.

### Other Politics.

But there were a lot of other politics during that year not connected with the Citizens' movement directly. It was early apparent, as it has been for the eight years since, that there was a perfect understanding between Harmon and the Citizens leaders by which he and his ram syndicate were safe from interference. Mayor Heard, as police commissioner, was as congenial to Harmon as any man could have been. There was never any friction between them. Harmon became to be more of a political czar under the Citizens rule than he had been under Republican rule and it consequently more distasteful to many who had voted the Citizens' ticket in the hope and expectation that a non-partisan municipal administration would result in a non-partisan police administration.

Those Republicans who had opposed

the Citizens' movement organized a club and called themselves the All-the-Year-Arounds. The Citizen Republicans were styled the Half-and-Halves. The feeling between the two factions became to be very bitter. The All-the-Year-Arounds were after Harmon's scalp and they secured a piece of it early when they petitioned Sheriff Hurd to take away his commission as deputy sheriff because he had made himself obnoxious politically. Sheriff Hurd did this, but no protest that could be made received any attention from the police commissioners. In the course of the year Police Commissioner Ford died and James F. Tarr was appointed in his place. J. Byron Campbell was the candidate of the All-the-Year-Arounds and this was quite a hot fight. The push was behind Tarr, however, and he landed, and since he has held the office he has always done just what Harmon has told him to do and has therefore been entirely satisfactory to Harmon.

### Two Hot Caucuses.

A hot fight was on early in the summer for delegates to the county convention. Harmon and the Citizen Republicans were after Sheriff Hurd's scalp and though he had served but one year it was proposed to drop him and Usher B. Thompson of Newfield was put forth as his opponent. The All-the-Year-Arounds were for Hurd. It was a bitter fight. At the caucus in City hall, the first that the new Opera house had seen, it looked like a riot for a time and all kind of trickery was resorted to to beat out the All-the-Year-Arounds, and the most active man in the fight was the non-partisan chief of police, who distributed ballots, and bulldozed about everybody who was not on his side.

This fight for the sheriff nomination spread to Saco and the caucus then did wind up in a fight. The Hurd machine had no show against the county machine for, at the behest of Mason, Harmon and Prescott the county leaders dropped Hurd and pushed Thompson. In Biddeford there was a regular campaign held before the caucus and Hon. J. O. Bradbury made a speech in which he vigorously denounced Harmon and his bulldozing and the rule of the ram syndicate. But the All-the-Year-Arounds were short on votes and the Biddeford caucus chose Thompson delegates by a vote of 518 to 218.

### The Next Spring.

The opposition to the Citizens' movement went to work to make a fight against Heard, who had been nominated again according to the understanding that each candidate should have two terms. The two anti-Citizen candidates in the Republican caucus were Col. L. H. Kendall and B. H. Eggersoll. Col. Kendall carried the caucus. There was an extremely hot ward caucus held in Harmon's ward that spring. The non-partisan city marshal and non-partisan Police Commissioner Tarr ran the caucus with a high hand, beating out Alderman Campbell for re-nomination and nominating Police Officer Fred L. Goodwin instead. Harmon thus got even with Campbell for aspiring to be police commissioner against his will. Campbell was hot at the time but he got over it and is now one of Harmon's closest political friends and his trusted lieutenant in ward 8.

Harmon knows how to handle them, all right, all right.

Mr. Campbell is only one of many illustrations.

Harmon's activity in politics resulted in a petition which received a good many signatures, mostly of Republicans, asking that the police commission be abolished. The election of 1897 resulted in a walkover for the Citizens, Heard beating Kendall by 379 majority.

### Bottling Company Held.

An incident of that spring which should not be passed over was the raid on the Biddeford Bottling company by City Marshal Burns of Saco. The authority of constable had been secured the city marshals, it will be remembered, when the office of constable had been abolished in these two cities, so Marshal Burns had jurisdiction to make this seizure. He carried off bay racks full of beer. It was in retaliation for the sheriff's attention to Saco while Biddeford was running wide open.

That act led to another petition to the legislature which resulted in the city marshals also being stripped of the powers of constable. Then it certainly seemed that Harmon's ram syndicate was safe.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

Feb 1-1904

## The Administration of 1897--Police Officer Removed for Seizing Liquor-Levi W. Stone Elected by Only 25 Majority.

(Continued From January 29.)

The second year of the Citizens was rather a quiet one politically, though there were some highly interesting sessions of the board of mayor and aldermen. Mayor Heard had got rid of troublesome Alderman Campbell, but both Aldermen Murphy and Gooch developed refractory conduct and opposed the mayor upon many questions. Some of the titles in the upper board that year were as sharp as any ever heard between members of rival parties. The exchanges were by no means complimentary. Alderman Murphy made some very pointed observations about the mayor's conduct and schemes and one day when Alderman Gooch got real mad he accused Mayor Heard of practicing "dirty and contemptible tricks."

It could not have been a very happy year for Mayor Heard.

### The Water Question.

The valuation of the water company's plant was taken up that year and there was a good deal of discussion upon this question and some of the members of the city council made grandstand plays, but when the year ended practically no progress had been made and this question went down to the next administration and was hashed and thrashed a year or more, longer. This was the chief topic during Mayor Heard's second year and the discussion has developed some far reaching inquiries into matters of corporation taxation. In fact, the discussion became rather uncomfortable at times for those who did not care to have these matters probed so deeply.

### The Electric Road Permit.

That year the municipal officers did something which it seemed would put an end to Citizen rule in Biddeford. It did not seem that any party could survive such an outrage and disappointment as was put upon the public.

The action referred to was the refusal of the municipal officers to let the Saco Valley road into Biddeford. However mythical this electric road which has been so many times promised in the last six years may now seem there is no reason to doubt that if the permit asked of Biddeford had been granted the road would have been built at once. Every business man on the street, and for that matter in town wanted the new road to come in, except those interested in the Biddeford and Saco road. The opposition came from the old road and Mayor Heard and Alderman Gooch were stockholders in the old road. They handled the other members of the board and in spite of petitions, public meetings and every other form of demand for the road the municipal officers voted against the permit. A great howl went up from the public and dire threats were made as to what would be done at the next spring election.

The power of "poli" was shown a short time later when the local road and the Atlantic shore line and the Pool road were granted any kind of permits they wanted without discussion.

These seven Citizen aldermen and Mayor Heard instead of serving their constituents and voting for their own benefit and the benefit of the city, sacrificed everything for the selfish interests of the owners of the old road. It was commonly predicted that this would be the death of the Citizens' movement, but it was not.

### Happy Days For Syndicates.

The two Heard administrations were happy days for Harmon and the ram syndicate. They could not have asked for plainer sailing. The Enforcement League still had spasms at irregular intervals but with constables out of the way, police and sheriffs "hard", the talk of the Enforcement League people did not bother the syndicate. Having got things entirely to their liking in Biddeford some of the Republican leaders invaded Saco to build up a ram syndicate there and recapture that city from the wicked Democrats. With something like 75 or 100 runabouts doing a wide open business in Biddeford, Sheriff Thompson and his deputies began sealing around in Saco hammering away at two places in that city which were selling rum to teach them fear, not of the law but of the Republican homes. Sheriff Thompson's Sunday closing sprees will be recalled. How Mayor Lord of Saco met his bluff and made him sit down before the whole county is also well remembered. The

derided the Citizens' movement as a wolf in sheep's clothing. But it could not be expected that the Journal would long stand out against a movement which was so agreeable to Harmon and so considerate of the Republican ram syndicate. Then, inasmuch as the owner of the Journal was also the heaviest owner in the electric road, a debt of gratitude was owed the Citizens' party, while Col. Kendall was rallying on a straight pledge to let the new road into the city if he was elected. And moreover the Journal's opposition to the Citizens' party had been softened by a liberal allowance of the city printing, about all of it in fact, Mayor Heard having scored on The Record about six months after his first election. So it will be seen that there was nothing strange in the Journal's sudden conversion to the beauties of a non-partisan administration.

### A Close Election.

The third candidate was Frank J. Smith. He had been a strong supporter of the strikers and had been urged by some of them to run. Others urged him not to run, so that the vote in opposition to the Citizens would not be divided. But he ran, up to noon time, when he pulled out and tried to throw his support to Col. Kendall. Stone was elected by a plurality of 213. Smith received 187 votes, all of which would doubtless have gone to Kendall had there been but two candidates. This would have put Stone's plurality to 25 and it is not unlikely that this split in the opposition vote was all that saved the Citizens from defeat that year, for the vote was very tight and a little work might have carried the day for Kendall.

plans of Harmonizing and Thompsonizing Saco did not mature then.

### A Policeman's Crime.

An illustration of the security of Biddeford rummellers is here given. Thomas Doyle was a regularly appointed police officer. Though he only did special duty occasionally under the police commission law he had all the authority of any officer and wore a policeman's badge.

One day Doyle took it into his head to seize some syndicate beer and whiskey and raided a couple of syndicate shops that the sheriffs or police men would have no more have dared to invade than they would have dared to rob a bank.

We have had murders and various other crimes since the state police took charge but nothing ever caused such activity and energy in police circles as that seizure by Doyle.

He was promptly and roughly arrested by the police and thrown into a cell in the police station and not even his brother was allowed to see him several for hours. As soon as the police grabbed their reckless brother the syndicate bartenders came out and unloaded the seized liquor from the room Doyle had pressed into service and it was restored to the saloons from which it had been taken.

Doyle was found guilty upon the charge of drunkenness and fined and as further punishment he was removed by the commissioners from the police force.

Two men have been removed from the state police force by the state police commissioners upon charges. The offense of one of them was that he seized syndicate rum.

The offense of the other was that he played pitch for a cigar one day when off duty.

### Other Matters.

No indictments were returned at the May term of court but at the September term 76 were reported nearly all against liquor selling, each of whom paid his fine of \$100 as cheerfully as he paid his assessment to a syndicate collector.

During this year Harmon had still another suit for false arrest brought against him. An aged Portland man had been thrown into jail by Harmon who claimed he was drunk. The old man's real offence appeared to have been that he was seen by Harmon talking on the street with Dennis O'Connor. To aggravate the latter was probably the chief purpose of the arrest.

The great strike of the winter of 1898 tended to keep politics in the background and it was expected that the strike would have an important bearing on the spring election. It was settled before election however, which was undoubtedly fortunate for continuation of the Citizens' party, with which the influence of the corporations has had so much to do.

### The Journal Fiasco.

There were three candidates in the field for the next election. Under the Citizen agreement it was the Republicans' turn to have the mayor and Levi W. Stone was the selection. Col. L. H. Kendall was again the candidate of the All-the-Year-Arounds and independents.

As soon as the nominations were made the Journal announced that it had overcome its scruples against the Citizens' movement and that it should support Stone. The Journal never did take kindly to Col. Kendall. In the previous campaign the Journal had taken no part. In the first Citizen campaign it had pretended to support Hamilton and as has been stated had

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## An Eventful Year Politically and a Year of Trouble for Harmon and His Rum Syndicate.

(Continued From February 1.)

Probably Biddeford never had a more exciting year politically than that which was comprised between the spring elections of 1898 and 1899. So far as the city administration was concerned there was not much trouble. Alderman Hesse created quite a panic early in the year by introducing an order aimed at the numerous syndicate saloons, requiring them all to be licensed as eating houses by the municipal officers and to give bonds to comply with the requirements of the license. But the syndicate's friends within the administration got busy and this order was shelved and there was no trouble resulting to the saloons.

In the course of this year Mayor Stone came out in the Journal with the proclamation, the substance of which was that he opposed the employment by the city in any capacity of men who had not voted for him. This was the non-partisan administration.

Hard Year For Harmon.

It was a hard year for Harmon. He had declared war some time before on the Hamilton faction and relations had become to be terribly strained.

Harmon saw to it that nobody supposed to be friendly with B. F. Hamilton was allowed to do any rum business and after he had raided a few until they had either quit the business or come over to his side, the Hamilton men got in their work.

They brought Deputy Sheriff B. A. Parker down from North Berwick and with local aid provided for him there was such a raid upon the syndicate shops as never known before or since. It was estimated that the first day \$3000 worth of liquor was seized from a dozen different places.

Parker followed it up with other seizures until the syndicate was knocked out. It was a terrible blow.

It may be as well mentioned now as later that Deputy Sheriff Parker was removed.

A county campaign was at hand and though the rummellers shouted loud for Parker's removal the Republican leaders did not dare remove him while the campaign was on.

The very day after election, however, Sheriff Thompson revoked his commission.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF REMOVED FOR SEIZING RUM FROM THE SYNDICATE.

But this interference of the syndicate was but the beginning of Harmon's troubles.

Charges Against Harmon.

The following charges, and they should be thoughtfully read, were duly sworn to before Henry G. Hutchinson, then a justice of the peace and now one of the police commissioners, by B. F. Hamilton, and Police Officers Frank Irish, Frank Emerson, Oliver H. McIntire and Leonard Andrews:

To Eusebius H. Banks, James F. Tarr and Levi W. Stone, Police Commissioners of the City of Biddeford:

Gentlemen:—We hereby make and allege the following charges against Charles B. Harmon in his official capacity as city marshal of the city of Biddeford, to wit:—

That he has notoriously used his office for selfish and political dominion; that he has wilfully and publicly and continually prostrated the police department for political ends, and in stead of making and maintaining it non-partisan, as the law contemplates, he has by his presence, violent con-

duct and intimidation at the caucuses held by the Republican party for the past four years caused strife, disorder, disorganization and disgrace to such an extent that many self respecting Republicans have refused to attend another caucus of the Republican party as long as Charles B. Harmon is city marshal of the city of Biddeford.

That he has used the power of his said office and his department to influence the voters assembled at said caucuses, and at such times has associated and been surrounded by law breakers and criminals who have openly aided and backed him in his political schemes at said Republican caucuses.

That he has demanded of and received from the law breakers and criminals of the city of Biddeford money for the purpose of influencing caucuses and elections.

That at the last caucus held by the Republican party in the City Opera house on the first day of August to nominate representatives to the legislature and choose delegates to the district and county conventions, he went to the place of the caucus when the citizens were engaged in voting and conducted himself so as to intimidate the voters that he was ordered to leave the platform by the chairman. After leaving it by order of the chairman he returned and only left it when the convention demanded that he should do so.

To this same caucus City Marshal Charles B. Harmon threatened to put across them of crime, all because they insisted on voting against his wishes.

That at this same caucus in violation of Sec. 35 and 36 of the rules and regulations of the Biddeford Police Board he was guilty of violence both in conduct and language unbecoming an officer.

That he has furnished and caused to be furnished intoxicating liquors to influence voters at caucuses and elections; that on the public streets and in his office he, without cause or excuse, assaulted and threatened to assault citizens of Biddeford and has threatened to accuse them of crime for personal and selfish ends.

That he has informed persons and given them the personal assurance that they could sell intoxicating liquors in the city of Biddeford if they would work and vote as he directed.

That the said Charles B. Harmon at two, at least, of the caucuses before mentioned created a disturbance and broke the peace, and in one of them almost created a riot, which was only prevented by the coolness of the law abiding citizens there present.

That the said city marshal, Charles B. Harmon has repeatedly, continually and notoriously violated his oath of office and the statute law of the State of Maine by negotiating to enforce the statute prohibiting the unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors.

That such neglect and the encouragement arising from his long continuance has become so well understood by the criminals and law breakers that the city is honeycombed with rum and beer saloons and kitchen bars, all to such an extent that our good city has become a disgrace to every law abiding citizen, a menace to good government, a reflection on the church, a corruption of good morals and a dishonor to the State of Maine.

Wherefore your petitioners pray your honorable board to give due notice to the said Charles B. Harmon of these charges and to annul a time and place for said hearing, and that if the charges herein named are proven to be true of any material part thereof, that your honorable board will take due notice thereof and remove the said Charles B. Harmon from the office of city marshal of the city of Biddeford.

Biddeford, Maine, August 18, 1898.

No Notice Taken.

The police commissioners received these charges, never so much as called a meeting to consider them, and put them into a pigeon-hole in their office where they are now, so far as anybody knows.

A copy of these charges was fur-

nished the Journal and it refused to publish them or to refer to them.

The only action of the police commissioners was to remove from the force the four police officers who signed the charges. They were later compelled by the Supreme court to reinstate them and it was this which finally led up to the suits of Daniel Cote against the city and against Harmon, the Supreme court having declared that the police commissioners could not remove officers except upon charges after a hearing.

Witnesses were ready to substantiate every specification in these charges but Banks, Tarr and Stone shielded Harmon and refused the petitioners a hearing.

The Industrial League.

It was in this year that Harmon's Industrial League was born. The York club had gone by entirely. The plan was that Harmon had started flaked out after election.

There was a little labor organization which did not number over a score of members holding meetings in Hardy's hall. This organization had been the result chiefly of the disappointment of some of the local labor men because Thomas F. Carey, who had been their candidate for factory inspector, had been turned down in favor of C. E. Atwood, put forward by the Prescott-Moses-Harmon combination.

Harmon got to work upon this little body of labor men, ran in his rum-sellers and stool pigeons, turned it over into a blackmill, boycotting, political organization, with a little cash now and then about a universal eight hour law and other measures of interest to labor, until he had built up the most infamous organization which ever existed in Biddeford. Fear of the boycott of this terrible Industrial League drove in a number of business men and others were cajoled and coaxed in.

Names were presented and voted upon without consent and with members of this kind included the League probably could at one time claim a membership of fully 500. Its active membership was always, as it is today, made up of rummellers and Harmon's niggers.

A workman's club which started afterward was regarded as a menace by the Industrial Leaguers and broken up by the boycott threats. Since 1898 the Industrial League has been all there has been to the Citizens and the Republican parties. It has picked out candidates, filled offices and violated every one of the original principles of the Citizens movement.

Other Incidents.

Other incidents of that exciting political year which a review of the Record files disclose were ex-Representative Fred M. O'Neill's pulling a pistol on Harmon to protect himself from violence, so he claimed.

The Good Templars of the county published a strong protest against free rum conditions in Biddeford.

Geo. W. Wilder's affidavit that while a prisoner in the police station he was told by Harmon that if he would vote as he wanted him to at the caucus he would let him out.

The Democrats carried Biddeford by 115 that fall election. It was a rebuke to the Republicans which was not heeded, however.

The rummellers having been hit up hard for election purposes they escaped with few indictments at the September term.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

## Citizens Win in Great Boodle Battle --More Trouble for Syndicate-- The Congressional Campaign.

(Continued From February 2.)

A good deal of dissatisfaction with the Citizens movement had for one reason or another developed by the time Mayor Stone's first year was drawing to a close.

The great cause of dissatisfaction was the complete prostitution of the movement to the purposes and schemes of Harmon. He had become to be practically the whole administration. Everything was as Harmon said.

The opposition could find no stronger candidate than Col. Kendall and he was again picked to lead a more determined fight than had been made against the Citizens. The Spanish war had given Col. Kendall additional popularity. His treatment of the boys from the two cities who had been to the front had been warmly commended. He seemed to be an ideal candidate to beat out Stone and redeem the city from the one man rule which had become to be obnoxious.

Big Caucus Fights.

The fight for the Republican caucus was a hot one. The Citizens-Republicans tried hard to capture the caucus for Stone. All of the power of the syndicate and the police was brought to bear to defeat the nomination of Col. Kendall, but it could not be done. It was a close fight, but Harmon was beaten and the nomination went to Col. Kendall by a vote of 842 to 309.

The same fight was kept up for the ward caucus nominations. In some of the wards, after being beaten out, the Citizens contingents remained and held second caucuses so that two batches of nominations were filed with the city clerk and it was some days before any decision could be obtained as to which nominations would be placed on the official ballot. The outcome was that the anti-Citizens were robbed of nominations honestly and fairly made and forced to fall back upon nomination papers.

In the ward 6 caucuses the police took a hand and assaulted voters for no other reason than that they were anti-Harmon. After this caucus war, were worn out against the police for a number of assaults but as much came of them as usually comes of complaints growing out of political rows.

The test case was made by John Berry, who had been assaulted and roughly handled by the police without any reason and it is only another illustration of the strange bedfellows politics have made to men who are bitter against Harmon and his police, is now Harmon's most trusted lieutenant in ward 6. Another instance of the nonpartisan police force winning supporters by clabbing them.

A Boodle Fight.

With the exception of the election of 1893, this was the biggest boodle fight in the city's history.

Here was the Citizens' party which had come into power on the cry "Down with the Bootleggers", up in arms and ready to buy an election, as soon as they thought their chances were endangered. Every method ever known to any political party to raise money was resorted to and rum money flared very materially. Never were votes more money bought than in this election and never did higher prices rule, except in 1888.

There appeared to be no limit to the Citizens' boodle barrel that year. How many thousands they spent is only a matter of conjecture but they outbid the other side two to one and the other side had raised money enough to carry almost any election.

It was claimed that the Citizens spent fully \$15,000 to secure "wind-cation" of honest, non-partisan government and an uncorrupted ballot that day. This would be about twice as much as the other side spent and the Citizens workers, from the time the polls opened, doubled upon the prices offered by the other side.

It was a Waterloo for the opposition. The Citizens carried every ward in the city and gave Mayor Stone a majority of 953.

Not Subdued.

Badly beaten as the opposition were only a few of them proved to be quitters by going over to Harmon. The others pledged themselves to keep up the fight against any party that Harmon was the recognized head of and the greater part of them have lived up to this pledge. Realizing

the important part that the rum-sellers had played in their defeat war on the syndicate was declared and was kept up as often as there was opportunity to deal a blow.

The New Caucus Law.

The new caucus law, another piece of special legislation for Biddeford with which the legislature has always been so generous, went into effect soon after election and the first caucus held under it for the election of a city committee was another hot one, in which Harmon, the police and the rummellers prominently figured.

Geo. W. Carter, a life long Republican tried to read a protest and was howled down, Dr. Parcell, Harmon, Frank W. Hovey and Joe Palardis doing the most effective vocal act. It should be mentioned that a year previous Dr. Purcell had been a rabid anti-Citizens anti-Harmon man. He and Harmon nearly came to blows on the street. Each was going to send the other to state prison. Purcell was going to sue Harmon for \$10,000 for slander, but the next that was known was that they were warm friends and political colleagues and have no continued.

At this caucus Harmon, the chief of the non-partisan force which was not to be allowed to mingle in politics, called Geo. W. Carter a liar. Not in an undertone but in a loud voice from the floor after Mr. Carter had finally secured the opportunity of reading his protest.

It is unnecessary to state that the Harmon crowd carried the caucus and elected a city committee to their own liking and they have since retained control of the caucuses, though they seem to be fearful of losing control this year.

Another Imported Deputy.

That summer there was more trouble for the syndicate. Deputy Sheriff Ricker was brought down from away up in Lebanon and sided by Judge Cram, Leonard Andrews and John P. Kelly he raided some of the choice syndicate places securing in all 800 gallons of liquor of one kind and another.

The syndicate and Harmon had another attack of heart failure but the remedy was at hand. Ricker was removed.

Congressional Campaign.

The retirement of Congressman Reed was the cause of a big flurry in Republican circles. Amos L. Allen had the support of the ring. Judge Berbank and Hon. J. O. Bradbury also had ambitions but ambitions were idle with the party machine opposed. Lots of feeling was engendered but a dictated interview which The Record published from Judge Berbank was the biggest bomb that had been exploded in the Republican camp for a while. It was a merciless arraignment of Harmon and his rum syndicate and of the Republican party for adopting this man and his methods.

After Amos explored the nomination "his private character" was attacked by John P. Kelley and the Good Templars and W. O. T. U. but it had no perceptible influence. Amos was elected handsomely enough.

But One Candidate.

The anti-Citizens were in no shape to make another fight after the bad beating they had received the year before and when N. B. Walker was put forward as the Citizens candidate for mayor there was no opposition ticket except in ward 1 and that did not amount to much. Mr. Walker ran alone and received the handsome compliment of 1078 votes.

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS OF 15 YEARS REVIEWED.

**Biddeford's Political History is Brought Briefly Up to the Present and Concluded.—The Lesson of the Review.**

(Continued From February 3.)

Mayor Walker's administration was quite uneventful politically. From an economic standpoint it was unquestionably a strong one. Greater reduction was made in the city debt than under any other administration and as the city government was entirely of one faith there was little friction. In fact, Mayor Walker had a faculty of getting along with the other members of the city council that neither Mayor Heard nor Stone had.

In his relations with Harmon, from all appearances Mayor Walker was as congenial as other Citizens mayors had been. There was at least nothing that came up in the police department that vexed Harmon. Charges of a most serious nature in which there were no politics were made against Police Officer Martin. The police commissioners considered the matter but it was passed over. Just two months from the day the charges were filed against Martin, Harmon preferred charges against Leonard Andrews, who had been restored to his position on the police force by order of the supreme court. Of course Harmon had no work for Andrews to do, but he was bound to have his way and so he charged him with playing pitch for a five cent cigar and the police commissioners sat solemnly for two days upon this case, a public hearing being held, and finally voted unanimously to dismiss Andrews from the force.

## Captured by the League.

It would have seemed that Harmon's grip on the Citizens' party was strong enough but it did not satisfy him. That spring he worked the Industrial League into the Citizens' annual meeting and captured the organization. It is hardly necessary to state that the grip has held good. For the last four years Harmon and the Industrial League has dominated the Citizens' movement. Nobody will deny this, not even Citizens who still regard themselves as leaders to a degree. The outgrowth of this absorption of the Citizens' movement by the League was the present City hall clique of office holders which have held their job four years and will hold them four years longer if the same party remains in control.

Another development of this administration was the introduction of politics into the fire department to an extent never equalled under any partisan administration. Since then the fire department has been one of the most important parts of the Industrial League machinery.

## Fogg-Andrews Fight

Perhaps the most interesting political development of the year was the contest for the Republican nomination of sheriff between Simon S. Andrews and Newell T. Fogg. Biddeford politicians had that nomination all buttoned up tight, to let them tell it, but there was a different story to tell after the convention was over. Mr. Fogg won out in what was probably as hot and tricky a fight as ever arose within the ranks of any political party in Maine. It was a bad disappointment to the League. It showed

that while that organization was all powerful locally it had not yet got to be the whole thing in the county. Harmon, the League and the syndicate thrived under Sheriff Fogg's first administration and there was no interference with any of Harmon's plans. It has been somewhat different during Sheriff Fogg's second term which is only a little more than half over. It could hardly be said in truth that Fogg is agreeable to Harmon.

## Recent Years.

Mayor Walker was reelected without opposition for a second term, receiving 597 votes, which were all that were cast. His second year's administration was but a continuation of the first, a good showing in debt reduction and no friction, either with Harmon or anybody else.

The remaining political history of Biddeford is too recent and too fresh to review. The record of the Gooch administrations with the held over officers, the absolute domination of Harmon in all matters relating to the city affairs, the small pox steal, the independent movement throughout the county against the Biddeford romping which came so near resulting in the defeat of the Republican candidate for sheriff, the close call from defeat that the Citizens' party had a year ago, the pitiful predicament that they are now in, unable to find a candidate after a month's work to find one, constitute a chain of events which lead up to the present and the live issues of the present day rather than history that belongs to the political past have first claim on attention.

## In Conclusion.

To the many who have followed this review of local politics and it has been followed by more readers and with more interest than had been anticipated, there must have appeared one overshadowing figure, never out of sight, dominating local politics, using all parties for his own ends, compelling all parties to adopt his own disreputable methods.

The political history of Biddeford has been the history of Charles B. Harmon.

We find him as a Democrat, the central figure and the commonly accredited instigator of the notorious repeater incident. We find him a few years later as a Republican, the instigator of the police commission outrage. A little later, as the father and protector of the notorious ram syndicate, a little later, as a Citizen, the originator and uncrowned king of the infamous Industrial League.

We have seen the methods and weapons he has used to accomplish his ends. We have seen him make the leading men of all parties in this city, as well as the thugs and criminals, crawl upon their knees and do his bidding. His enemies of yesterday have been made his tools of today. Harmon has an army of slaves but no friends. He has more use for slaves than for friends. The slaves do his bidding. His friends cease to be friends when they refuse to do his bidding.

It has brought us up to the present

situation. The whole issue of the election now little more than a month away as Harmonian.

If this review of past history has aided in making plain what Harmonian means, then it has accomplished its purpose.



